

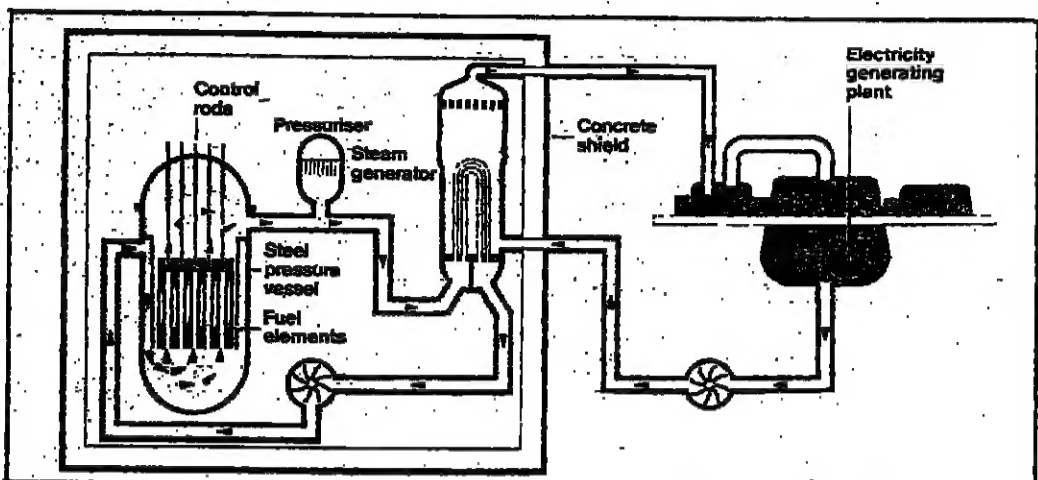
## Britain to use US design of pressurized water reactor to generate power

Government has decided to proceed with a pressurized water reactor, provided the plans meet safety standards. Plans for the construction of the power station will be subject

to a public inquiry. The Government intends to start building its first pressurized water reactor in 1982 and the electricity supply boards want to order one nuclear power station a year from 1982 to 1992.

## Government emphasis on nuclear safety

The Wright Editor has announced that the Government will proceed with the design of a pressurized water reactor in the United Kingdom. The Government has been asked to meet safety standards. The Government will be subject to a public inquiry.



Commons, Mr Howell said that the Government was committed to the development of nuclear power. He emphasized the importance of safety and the need for a public inquiry. The Government will be subject to a public inquiry.

The accident at Three Mile Island and subsequent investigations do not alter the Government's view that the reactor can be built and operated in Britain to high safety standards. The Government will be subject to a public inquiry.

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## Thatcher hope of end to isolation of S Africa

From Michael Leaman, New York, Dec 18. Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said today that the Rhodesia settlement could provide a chance to end the isolation of South Africa. This first formal comment on the peace process came in a message issued at the last minute into a major speech at the Foreign Policy Association.

## Jobless figures point to continued rise throughout next year

By Caroline Atkinson. Unemployment is set to rise throughout next year. Figures published yesterday showed that the underlying level of unemployment has risen for the sixth month in a row. The level of job vacancies has dropped in each of the last six months.



Professor Küng: No longer to be considered a Catholic theologian.

## Hans Küng penalized by Vatican

From Peter Nichols, Rome, Dec 18. The Vatican's newly sharpened axe of orthodoxy fell today on Roman Catholicism's most famous theologian with a statement depriving Professor Hans Küng, the Swiss-born priest, of his right to teach or to call himself a Catholic theologian at all.

## uzorewa delay ceasefire

signing of a Rhodesia ceasefire will be put off. Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the Rhodesia Prime Minister, is holding final agreement by refusing to return to the signing ceremony. He is said unhappy at reports that Britain may be the time needed to put a ceasefire into effect.

## Oil price rises of 30 pc likely after Opec discord

The price-fixing meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Caracas remained unable to agree on a new oil price structure. The gap between the moderate and the hardline oil states did not narrow, and a wide spread of eventual price increases of between 20 per cent and 30 per cent seemed likely.

## Steel decision tonight

Steel union leaders meet tonight to confirm or suspend their decision to mount a national strike on January 2 against a background of unease in some steelmaking areas about the first almost complete loss of the industry since 1926.

## Education clash

The education committee of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities rejected resolutions criticizing the Government's education policy and proposed an assisted places scheme that a conference of metropolitan education authorities had passed earlier in the day.

## Post rise doubts

To amp postage increases due to take effect in February, including a 2p rise for letters, the Government is being asked to modify its financial targets for the Post Office. Rejecting users' counter-proposals, the Post Office has asked the Government to decide whether to reaffirm the target figures.

## Rape research

Police research: Popper believes about rape are challenged by a large-scale study of police files. To serve British mackerel stocks from the depletion the affected hearing, a tough licensing system will start next year.

## Sahara: Desert ghost town marks Polisario victory

Sahara: Desert ghost town marks Polisario victory over demoralized Moroccan units. The situation was much the same in the gills and the FT index closed 2.0 down at 421.3.

## Minister's position 'untenable'

By Hugh Noyes, Parliamentary Correspondent. Westminster. Mr Peter Rees, Minister of State for the Home Office, was accused last night in the Commons of being in an untenable position in the Government in that he had been a tax adviser to the Rossmore finance group, which the Inland Revenue is investigating for suspected tax fraud.

## African sports leaders call for break with Britain

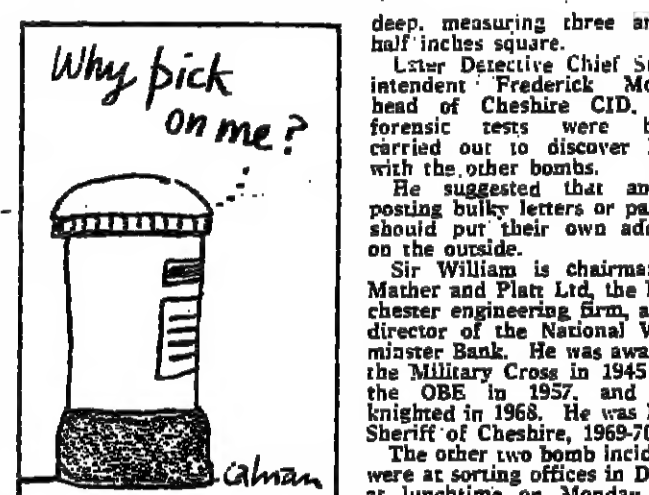
By John Hennessey. African sports leaders have vowed to break off sporting relations with Britain. Meeting at Yaounde, Cameroun, against the background of a possible British Lions rugby tour of South Africa next summer, they called on "all African states to break all bilateral sports contacts with Great Britain, to boycott any sports events in Great Britain and not to invite any British sportsmen to compete in their countries".

## Police stop thousands in pre-Christmas campaign against drinking and driving

By Craig Seton. Thousands of drivers are being stopped by the police in a pre-Christmas campaign by several major forces to catch motorists' offenders, particularly drunk drivers, and reduce deaths and serious injuries.

## Christmas packages warning to public after third letter bomb

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter. Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, warned the public yesterday to take "every care" with Christmas mail on the number of letter bombs in the latest attack rose to three with the discovery of one addressed to Sir William Mather, the industrialist.



Mr Whitelaw, speaking in the Commons condemned "the cowardly way people seek to cause loss of life through letter bombs".

Mr William Mather sorting through his mail at his home in Wiltshire, Cheshire, yesterday, came across a brown manila envelope, nine inches by six and a quarter. The letter was posted in Brussels and addressed on a blue-edged label.

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## ran assassination

ing Islamic theologian and supporter of the Khomenei has been assassinated by a gunman. Ayatollah Khomeini, an adviser to Ayatollah Khomeini, was shot in the chest by a gunman in a car in the city of Tehran.

## Trudeau returns

Mr Trudeau who decided to step down from leadership of the Canadian Liberal after his defeat at this year's general election, has reversed his decision and will lead again at the forthcoming elections, stated by the parliamentary defeat of Mr Rees' minority government.

## rorists' jail break

hant has begun throughout Spain for five and members of the left-wing terrorist organization Grupo who tunneled their way out of maximum-security prison in Zamora, included three top leaders of the organization and are described by the police as "very dangerous". It took them several months to dig a tunnel.

## nming doctor jailed

ierre-Marie Palvin, a Paris clinician, has been sentenced to two years' imprisonment in Clermont-Ferrand, fined 30,000 francs (£3,300), and ordered to pay 500,000 francs damages after the death of a girl he treated. The prosecutor said it was a test for the "Dr Jekylls" who "practise science".

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## Nine charged after raids

Nine people, including four women, were charged last night with various offences after raids in London and Merseyside last week. Four of the accused were born in Belfast.

The charges include conspiring to cause an explosion and unlawful possession of weapons. They will appear before Lambeth magistrates, London, this morning.

## As an employer, have you considered the HSA CROWN PLAN as a valuable part of your employee welfare?

asks Air Vice-Marshal A.A. Case, CB, CBE, MBM, General Secretary of the Hospital Saving Association.

The HSA is in business to pay cash benefits to employees and their families when away sick in Hospital or Nursing Home. Because it is a benevolent, non-profit-making association these benefits, in commercial terms, are outstanding.

The CROWN PLAN fixed contributions (25p or 50p a week/£13 or £26 a year) cover the whole family for a wide range of tax-free benefits - admissions to Hospital or Registered Nursing Home (£90 or £180 a month for Contributor and/or spouse; children under 16 one-third), convalescence, maternity, dental treatment, spectacles, chronic illnesses, home help and specialist consultations.

The 50p Option doubles the 25p Option benefit scales, and family cover may be further increased by husband and wife having separate memberships and cross-claiming.

The CROWN PLAN has over 355,000 individual Contributors, mainly in some 6,000 commercial and industrial Groups, paying by payroll deduction. Health insurance is a valuable concession in wage negotiations and some firms now pay CROWN PLAN contributions for their workforce.

May we start a CROWN PLAN Group in your organization? Please write to me for details of how the CROWN PLAN can give your staff financial protection in times of sickness.

## Hospital Saving Association

30 Lancaster Gate, London W2 2LT  
11 Randolph Place, Edinburgh EH3 7TA







## ME NEWS

## Government is asked to avert the p letter by modifying its financial targets for Post Office

By Michael Bailey  
Transport Correspondent

Government is being asked to avert the p letter by modifying its financial targets for Post Office in order to price increases next year.

Post Office yesterday a decision about the p letter by modifying its financial targets for Post Office in order to price increases next year.

Morgan said: "We will be necessary for next to accept revised targets, but hope it is that this is the kind of change the Post Office

should be asked to meet in dealing with a monopoly industry, customers too have rights."

The proposed increases, the second in six months, include an additional 2p on first and second class letter rates, with rises of 4p to 22p for parcels and 23p for some overseas mail.

Coupled with the tariff changes of last August, they represent increases of about 40 per cent in a single financial year for many years.

POUNC proposed increases in two stages, the second to be deferred until after next year's wage settlement and perceptible productivity improvements.

The report, made after consultation with some 400 organisations, recommended that the initial increases should be restricted to 1p and 1p in first and second class letter rates.

The average weighted increase in various charges should not exceed 10 per cent.

The Mail Users' Association (MUA), representing business customers whose postal spending represents about 10 per cent of total, support the POUNC's drive to reduce overseas postal costs.

Mr Julian Blackwell, chairman of the MUA Exporters' Group, said yesterday that this

would give much needed help to exporters who expect to send goods worth some £630m abroad by post next year and who are struggling very hard indeed to retain markets and keep up overseas sales.

He said that for the last four years the Post Office had made an average 5.9 per cent profit on overseas mail, which was three times the required target.

In its reply to POUNC, the Post Office said the cash limit set in advance for the year 1979-80 had assumed pay settlements of 5 per cent, but in October it had conducted the final stages of a pay efficiency agreement with the Union of Post Office Workers which

afterwards added 16 per cent to the wage bill.

The postal service is heavily labour-intensive, wages accounting for more than three-quarters of total costs, and the Post Office considers that it has no alternative but to pass the increases on to increased costs.

Productivity, measured in terms of items handled per member of staff, had fallen over the last decade.

The number of staff employed is now about the same as it was in 1970, whereas the volume of traffic has fallen by about 4 per cent.

## Ladbroke given leave to appeal on licences

Ladbroke was granted leave by the High Court yesterday to challenge the refusal of Knightsbridge Crown Court, London, earlier this month to renew gaming licences for the Ladbroke Club, the Hartford Club and the Park Lane Casino in the West End.

Lord Justice Shaw, presiding in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court, said an application could be made early in the new year for an expedited full hearing of the appeal.

The appeal is by two Ladbroke subsidiaries, Ladbroke and Ladbroke Gaming, who held the licences of the three clubs. They are seeking a High Court order quashing the Crown Court's decision.

The police, the Gaming Board and the Playboys Club, who had objected to the licence renewal, were not represented at yesterday's hearing.

Justice Shaw said an arguable point of law arose from Ladbroke's claim that the Crown Court did not pay due regard to a restructuring which had taken place in the Ladbroke Group between the refusal of Westminster Licensing Justices to renew the licences and the Crown Court hearing.

Mr John Alastair QC, for Ladbroke, told the court it was patently clear from the Crown Court's judgment that it had "shut its eyes" to the restructuring.

Between the two court hearings, a wholly independent company, City and Provincial Gaming Holdings, had been created and interposed between the Ladbroke Group and the two companies holding the gaming licences, he said.

Judge Friend, referring to the Crown Court's restructuring, said: "If that were a matter to affect us, it would simply mean that every limited liability company could breach the law."

**Ld Moyinhan divorced**

Lord Moyinhan was divorced in London yesterday by his wife, Lugharda. The couple had lived apart for two years.

## Crisis in the steel towns 3—Corby: Belated attempt to diversify

## Workers fear strike will cut redundancy money

From John Young  
Planning Reporter

Corby

Like other new towns, Corby has over the years attracted thousands of newcomers, and the range of accents to be heard in the town is as varied as the range of jobs. But the dominant one, as it has been ever since the steel industry was established in the 1930s, is that of Clydeside.

The children and grandchildren of the men who were lured south to the Stewart and Lloyd "company towns" have remained remarkably and defiantly Scottish. There is a daily bus service from Corby to Glasgow, and a Glasgow Rangers supporters' club.

Set in the middle of the Northamptonshire countryside, Corby has always been something of an anomaly. For two generations it has been overwhelmingly dependent on steel, and only recently and belatedly has there been any real attempt at industrial diversification.

Indeed for many years it was deliberate government policy not to encourage any other industry. When the new town development corporation was established in 1950, its task was primarily to provide housing

for the expanding labour force. Although the drag lines are still excavating iron ore from what was once farmland, leaving desolation in their wake, all hope of saving the steelmaking plant has disappeared. Two days ago the local branch of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation joined the other unions in voting to accept redundancy.

The tube mills are to remain, using steel brought in from outside. But the end of steelmaking means that 6,000 men will lose their jobs, bringing unemployment in the town from its present 10 per cent to nearly 30 per cent.

Although previous governments may be held partly to blame for Corby's plight, local politicians have also inhibited attempts to diversify. As in most new towns, there is little love lost between the development corporation and the council, and each accuses the other of going behind its back on several occasions.

There were also those, in recent months articulate in the Campaign for the Retention of Steelmaking at Corby, who argued that to bring in new industry would strengthen the case for closure.

"There were a lot of people," including some councillors, who maintained that we could not afford to be seen to be making contingency plans as that would be letting down the steelworkers". Brigadier Hugh Hamilton, general manager of the development corporation, says:

"Having now bowed to the inevitable, the steelworkers' main worry is over the proposed national strike set for January 2, which they fear will affect their redundancy payments. 'I am not against the principle of the strike, because 2 per cent is a ridiculous offer', says Mr Ken Gosland, an intelligent, gentle-speaking Scot who is senior controller of the Electrical, Electronic, Plumbing and Telecommunications Union and chairman of the Joint Trades Union Policy Group. 'But if our lads find themselves made redundant in the middle of a strike, they could not claim continuous employment and could lose a lot of money. Frankly, the timing of this strike has put us in an impossible position.'"

As for alternative employment, Brigadier Hamilton claims to have received about 150 inquiries since the town was granted assisted area status last month and the corporation

has been advertising for new industry. But the corporation, like those of the other "first generation" new towns, is due to be wound up in three months and, with the Commission for the New Towns a possible target for "quango-cutting", most of the work of attracting firms will devolve upon the council. Candidates for a new post of director of industry are being interviewed today.

Advance factories are being built on two large sites, and a feasibility study is in progress for a heavy industry project on land close to the steelworks.

The mood is not all pessimistic. Mr Kevin Glendenning, leader of the district council, points out that the town has the advantage of being fairly close to London and to the East Coast ports. Brigadier Hamilton thinks "the signs are reasonably hopeful," even though the need is to create 10,000 new jobs in the next decade.

Mr William Mawdsley, deputy leader of the council, says that although there is some despondency, particularly among young wives, the general mood of the townspeople is "marvellously resilient."

Next: How Millom coped

## He given terminal Stansted

By Michael Bailey  
Transport Correspondent

Mr Reed, terminal at Stansted Essex, to handle up to 100,000 passengers a year could be by 1987-88, Mr Norman

chairman of the British Authority, said yesterday.

It was chosen earlier by the Government and the third London airport from the present passengers a year will be 100,000. The first, 300 acres of additional will accommodate 150,000 passengers a year.

Mr Reed expects the plan for the initial terminal at Stansted to be completed by July or August next for the planning to start in the first 1981. Strong objections to the expansion of Stansted at the inquiry, however, have been made.

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## BR commuter lines 'in need of £1,000m'

By Michael Bailey  
Transport Correspondent

London and South-east railways need an extra £1,000m in the next ten years if good commuter services are to be provided, Sir Peter Parker, British Rail chairman, said yesterday.

Without the money as well as £900m BR is proposing to invest in new stock and stations, commuters in the South-east face steadily deteriorating services and rising fares.

But British Rail has no idea where the extra money would come from, and Sir Peter launched a campaign yesterday to involve the 400,000 daily commuters in the debate on the future of the system which he says makes up more than a quarter of the country's railway network and plays a key part in the social and economic success of the capital.

Among ideas to be considered are a payroll tax on London businesses which could not survive without railways to bring their workers in; a tax allowance on commuter rail fares and grants from local authorities towards the upkeep of stations, which are as much public buildings as libraries and town halls, Sir Peter said.

A travelling "rail-road show" will tour the South-east to explain the difficulties to commuters and invite them individually and through community associations to establish an agreed commuters' charter.

Its object will be to define the role the commuter railways in terms of pattern and quality of service; the cost, who should pay, and how they should pay, Mr Parker said.

He said BR seems clear about one point: that the commuters will not be able to pay the full cost. "We have not dared calculate what the effect on fares would be," BR said.

In Paris passengers pay more than three-quarters of the cost of their commuter services, while in London they pay two thirds, BR pointed out.

Research by consultants pinpoints six main requirements of commuters:

A punctual and reliable service as timeable.

Clean, bright and cheerful trains.

Reasonably comfortable seats for all passengers except on short journeys of 10 to 15 minutes.

Information and advice in case of disruption.

Adequate staffing and environment at stations.

Free movement between coaches to increase personal security, reduce vandalism and improve ticket control.

The renovation needed to fulfil such expectations would require more than double the present £300m investment presently planned by BR, subject to Government cash limits over the next decade. That envisages £300m for 2,000 new coaches; £200m for track renewals; £100m for signalling and track layout; £150m for electrification and £40m for stations.

London as a capital city, the seat of government and administrative and business centre of the country, benefits considerably from the railway network, says a new discussion paper *Towards a Commuters' Charter* available from BR.

"Is it really feasible to expect the commuter to foot the bill for a service which conveys significant benefits to the whole community?"

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## First round to youth officer trying to clear name

By Annabel Ferriman

The first battle of a campaign to restore the good name of a West Indian youth officer convicted of harassment last August was won yesterday.

Mr Gavron Shepherd, aged 45, senior youth officer at the Commission for Racial Equality, was given leave to appeal against his conviction and sentence by the Court of Appeal.

He was also given unconditional bail and released from prison.

Mr Shepherd was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment at Knightsbridge Crown Court on August 7 for allegedly harassing two young women, Mr

William Harris and his wife Aileen, in his house in Herne Hill, south London.

They had alleged that he had made hostile telephone calls, slammed doors, uttered abuse and indecently exposed himself, all of which he denied.

A support group for Mr Shepherd, a Methodist lay preacher, collected 700 signatures in his support within 10 days of his conviction.

The leave to appeal was given on a point of law by Lord Justice Eveleigh, sitting with Mr Justice Wynn and Mr Justice Drake. The appeal will be heard next year.

## Scientists check shopping precinct fire debris

From Our Correspondent

Liverpool

Scientists from the Government department at Chorley, Lancashire, were examining debris yesterday in an effort to establish the cause of a fire which severely damaged the market area in the St John's shopping precinct in Liverpool city centre on Monday night.

Although arson had not been definitely ruled out by Mr Sidney Rankin, chief fire officer for Merseyside, said last night that first reports indicated that the blaze had not been started maliciously.

Hundreds of people were moved from hotels and public houses near by as flames and thick smoke rose into the air.

At least 120 firemen from three counties, five hours to bring the outbreak under control and some crews were still tackling pockets of fire 24 hours after it was discovered.

Mr Rankin said that the precinct was not fitted with a sprinkler system, which would have prevented much of the damage, but the building had satisfied fire regulations when it was constructed 15 years ago.

Part of the complex will now have to come down, although two thirds of it was saved.

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## HOME NEWS

## Metropolitan authorities in clash over conference criticisms of government education policy

By Diana Geddes  
Education Correspondent

A dispute broke out at a meeting of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities' education committee yesterday when it rejected resolutions criticising the Government which had been passed earlier in the day by a full conference of metropolitan education authorities.

The annual meeting in Kingston upon Thames of the 37 metropolitan education authorities in England passed resolutions attacking Government cuts in education spending and opposing the proposed assisted places scheme. Labour has a majority of one among the authorities.

Less than two hours later, the resolutions were rejected by a closed meeting of the AMA education committee, which is Conservative-controlled and which has representatives from only 24 of the 37 authorities. The 15 Labour members walked out.

Mrs Nicole Harrison, chairman of Haringey's education committee and leader of the Labour group on the AMA education committee, said afterwards: "It is ridiculous that you get a democratic decision by a conference representing every metropolitan education authority in the country and then you go into a small caucus and they reverse it."

But after the Labour walk-out, the AMA education committee agreed to recommend that every metropolitan education

authority should be represented. At the morning meeting, Conservative and Labour authorities joined to pass 25 votes to 14 a resolution recording the meeting's "gravest concern (at) the severity of the spending cuts in education proposed by the Government, which inevitably will lead to a lowering of standards and of morale in the service."

The meeting urged the Government to "reverse its divisive and disastrous policies" and to maintain at least the present levels of expenditure on all forms of state education. The meeting passed by 23 votes to 21 a motion noting "the alarm" over the proposal to spend £60m on places at independent schools while cutting £300m from the normal education budget. It also recorded its "complete opposition" to the assisted places scheme.

Sir Ashley Bramall, Labour leader of the Inner London Education Authority, said the financial aspect of the assisted places scheme was a serious irritant. But the real issue was that the scheme was intended to transfer the business of getting university places from the public to the private sector.

It would drive education back to the situation before the Second World War when state schools were not expected to have academic highfliers, he said.

Mr Neil Scrimshaw, Conservative chairman of Birmingham education committee, argued

that only 1 or 2 per cent of children would be involved in the scheme; 98 per cent of the education service would remain intact. It was at the moment, only £6m would be spent in the first year out of an education budget of £6,000m. The scheme had to be kept in perspective, he said.

Mr Peter Newsam, ILEA chief education officer argued that although the scheme would only concern 2 per cent of children, it would be 2 per cent of the brightest 10 per cent, and would therefore take a fifth of the highfliers out of state schools. That could be a catastrophe for six forms, he said. Councillor J. W. Withnell, Labour of Wandsworth, said the scheme would not benefit the able working class children whom it was intended to help, as their parents would not know how to use the scheme. Assisted places would go usually to children whose parents were considering independent schools anyway.

Mr Peter Horton, Labour chairman of Sheffield education committee, said that Sheffield would try to hinder the scheme, even if it became law, in the same way as the Tory authorities had hindered the introduction of comprehensive schools.

Mrs Angela Rumbold, Conservative chairman of the AMA education committee, said that she shared the meeting's concern about the possible effect of the cuts. But she also believed they could help by focusing attention on "more basic solutions to problems."

## SDLP fury at 'No unity' remark by Mr Atkins

From Christopher Thomas  
Belfast

The Government's delicate agreement with Northern Ireland politicians for a constitutional conference beginning on January 7 survived a day of doubt and confusion yesterday which might easily have seen its downfall.

The Social Democratic and Labour Party said it was furious with Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, for saying Irish unity would be ruled out after the proposed conference. Mr John Hume, party leader, promptly issued a public challenge to Mr Atkins to explain himself. Mr Atkins remained silent, but the Northern Ireland Office said he stood by a six-point agreement with the SDLP which four days ago persuaded the party to take part in the conference. Despite strong words of condemnation by party leaders of what they saw as backtracking by Mr Atkins, the conference was still on last night.

Mr Hume, who was in Dublin for talks with Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, said: "I call on Mr Atkins publicly to confirm the six points of agreement. If there is any change in this position, either before or during the conference, then we can regard the negotiations as the seriousness of the initiative and the reasons that lay behind it."

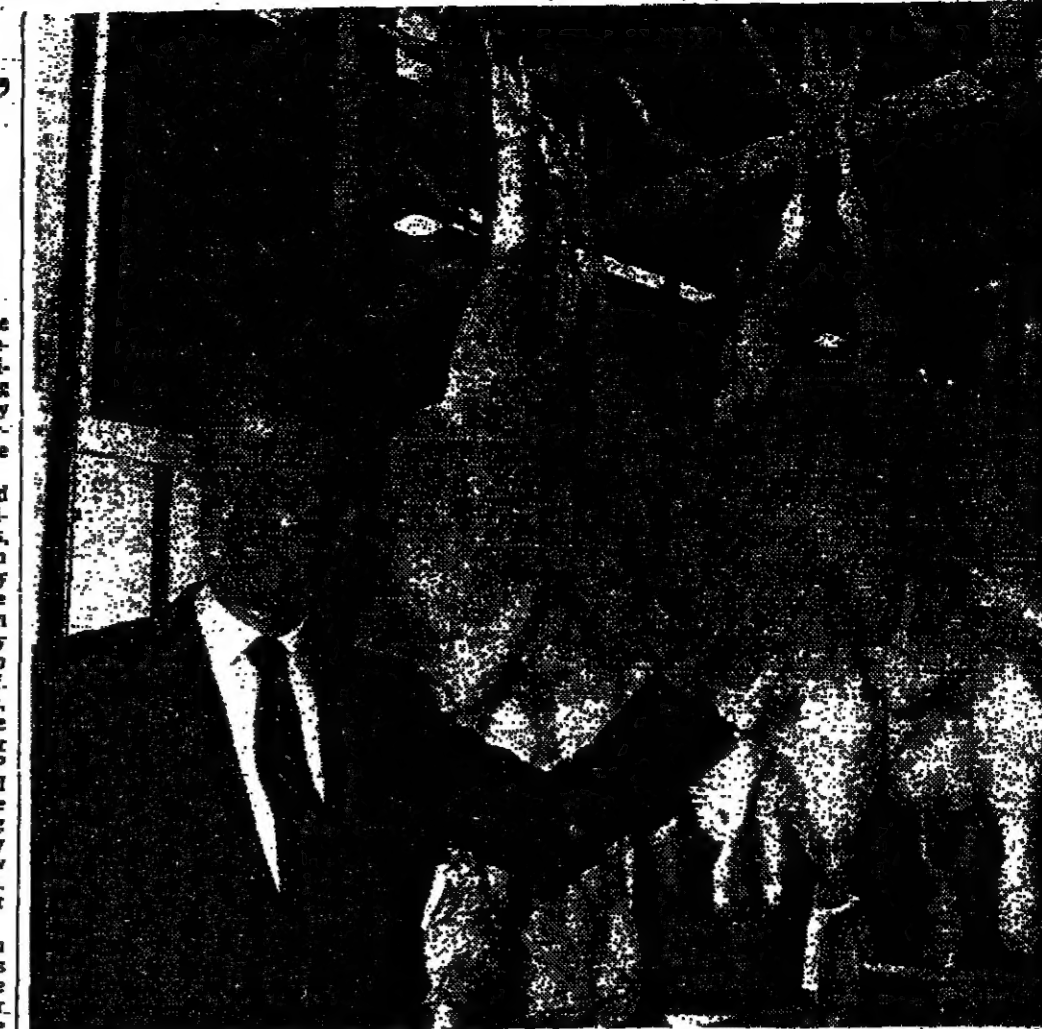
Stronger words came from Mr Seamus Mallon, the deputy leader who accused Mr Atkins of "a duplicity which has already eroded any degree of trust that existed between him and the Northern Ireland parties."

By a combination of dishonesty and incompetence Mr Atkins had made it almost impossible for political progress to take place under his chairmanship.

The comment that upset the SDLP was contained in a letter from Mr Atkins to the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, who wanted assurances that there would be no old-style power-sharing or Irish unity.

Mr Atkins said the conference would not be invited to discuss a united Ireland and he confirmed that the working party forming the basis of the conference would remain unaltered. Relations with the Republic of Ireland on matters over which any devolved responsibility would be a subject for the conference to discuss, he added.

The 400-word agreement with the SDLP is an obvious refinement of the critical Paragraph Four of the working paper, which said the conference would not be concerned with the constitutional status of the province and would not be asked to discuss issues such as Irish unity, confederation or independence.



Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, inspecting Christmas turkeys during an early morning visit to Smithfield Market, London, yesterday.

## New York takes over from London as main art auction centre

By Geraldine Norman  
Sale Room Correspondent

New York has supplanted London as the world's leading art auction centre. It had been drawing closer for some time. For the autumn season Sotheby's turnover in Bond Street was £1m down on 1978 at £24.9m; in New York it was £15m up at £42m.

Such figures are complicated by the vagaries of exchange rates. The New York turnover was 77 per cent up on 1978 if measured in dollars and 53 per cent up if measured in sterling. However, turnover in Bond Street is down whichever way you look at it. Elsewhere in Britain there has been a modest advance.

Sotheby's is now the biggest art auctioneer worldwide by a large margin, with a turnover of £94.3m compared with Christie's, the nearest competitor, with a turnover of £55.3m. Christie's has had a better autumn in London than Sotheby's with turnover up by 33 per cent to £21.4m. But in New York, where Christie's auction rooms are only just entering their third year of business, turnover is up to £16m compared with £11.9m for last season.

Phillips, the third largest auction group, reports its figures by calendar year, and not for the autumn alone. But it has raised its sales to £31m for the past year, with the growth area being concentrated in the United States where turnover was up to £5.6m.

Phillips is also a relative newcomer in New York. Only Sotheby's and Christie's are long established. But Bonham's, which is fourth in Britain and has no New York outlet, has managed to add a modest 6 per cent increase to its turnover this autumn.

It is exceedingly difficult to determine whether the shift in turnover from London to New York in Sotheby's and Christie's figures has been guided by the auctioneers or has happened of its own accord. Both firms have been keen to hold guide clients to sell in the most advantageous of their worldwide outlets.

The success of New York reflects, on one hand, the strong demand from United States collectors and dealers; and, on the other, the advice that the auctioneers have given their clients that New York is the best place to sell. The two go hand in hand.

An important factor in the United States advance has been the boom in prices for all art and artefacts of American origin. In September a nineteenth-century Arctic seascape by the American artist, Frederick William Church, "Icebergs", became the third most expensive painting yet sold at auction, at \$2.5m. Only a painting by Velasquez and one by Titicorelli had gone higher.

There also seems to have been a policy decision by both Sotheby's and Christie's to hold their top sales of expensive Impressionist and modern pictures in New York rather than London.

For Christie's the autumn Impressionist sales in New York totalled £6m and in London, £12m.

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## Police files study dispels fallacies of rape

By David Nicholson-Lord

Several commonly held beliefs about rape have been challenged in what is believed to be the first large-scale survey to be conducted in Britain. Rape cases based on police files.

It was carried out by a Richard Wright, a research student at the Institute of Criminology at Cambridge. Findings were presented yesterday to a symposium on rape at a British Psychological Society conference in London.

Other papers included results of research into the personalities of violent rapists as well as the law's attitude to rape. Mr Wright began with that of the popular myths about rape listed in the first report of the Rape Crisis Centre in London. Those were that women enjoy rape, that rape is impossible if a woman resists, and that it is "just sexual intercourse which you do not want it".

The study was based on 2 cases over a five-year period in the East, Midlands and South.

In 60 per cent of cases, a Wright found, the victim was pushed, slapped or rough handled. In half she was threatened with physical harm usually death. Since most of the victims were in the street, it seemed illogical to suppose they enjoyed the encounter.

Although the study showed that rape was less likely to succeed if the victim fought fiercely, it increased the woman's chance of being severely beaten. The fallacy of the "rape is impossible" view, according to Wright, is that it ignores the fact that while most victims initially resist their attacker, their resistance is usually overcome by threats or force.

On the third myth, that rape is the imposition of intercourse on an unwilling partner, Wright concluded that in most victims suffered at least minor violence, half were threatened and a third received some form of injury, becomes apparent that to a woman involved in a rape, it might justifiably be seen as a life-threatening situation.

In another paper, M. Geraldine Wilson, of Brun University, said a Home Office study showed that rape as a group appeared to be perceived as a "sexual" offence, "abnormally" in that it saw sexual intercourse as where none existed.

A group of violent rapists serving long prison sentences were questioned about the responses to video sequences showing sexual intercourse between men and women and demonstrated significant higher perceptions of encouragement than other prisoners and prison staff.

Mrs Wilson said that interviews of the rapists showed patterns of different attitudes to sexual relationships and to sexual intercourse. Some showed signs of failure to find partners. None saw themselves as women-haters. This was linked with heavy drinking at an unexpected degree of social interaction. In a rape, in which most of the attackers stayed behind.

They appeared, she said, believe that they had seduced rather than coerced the victims.

## Parachutist died after pulling the wrong cord

From Our Correspondent  
Oxford

A parachutist made no effort to pull his emergency cord as he plunged 5,000ft to his death, an inquest was told yesterday. Mr Philip Keeley, 54, of Highwood Avenue, Booker, near High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, died after a parachute when he pulled the wrong piece of equipment he dropped over RAF Weston-on-the-Green, Oxfordshire.

Sergeant Michael Threlfall, parachute instructor, witness, told the coroner that Mr Keeley had pulled the wrong cord, but made an attempt to do so.

Recording a verdict of accidental death, the coroner, J. Thomas Gardiner, said it was possible that Mr Keeley had had a mental blackout.

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## IBA's decision on television regions has shocked prospective broadcasters

By David Hewson  
Industrial Staff

The Independent Broadcasting Authority has decided that there will be no major changes in the regions covered by the commercial television companies which will fight for licences to broadcast from January, 1982.

The ruling has astounded both existing companies and the various consortia formed to challenge them during hearings for the franchise. It means that the BBC will immediately rule out the chances of success of Lancashire, the consortium which includes Mr Brian Redhead and the Duke of Westminster, and the East Midlands Forum, a group involving five county councils in the Midlands advised by Mr Philip Whitehead, MP for Derby (North) and a former BBC producer and editor.

Mr Whitehead said last night: "There will be a great deal of questioning of the IBA's interpretation of its role and its apparent subservience to the existing companies in this. When one thinks the

fourth channel is going to be

put in the hands of this present organization, I am in despair."

Both groups' applications for franchises were to be based upon changing the boundaries of the companies currently serving their areas. Such changes occurred when the franchises were last offered in 1967, and consortia planning to compete in the present round of bidding are 15 companies operating in the country, believed regional changes would be considered again.

The chairman of the IBA, Lady Plowden, has, however, written to the Lancashire group saying: "The national plan for television coverage of the United Kingdom does not permit the authority to carve out fresh regions in areas already covered."

An IBA spokesman last night confirmed the point, saying that the authority could not agree to changes such as those suggested by Lancashire be-

cause they would involve the

construction of new transmitter equipment. The chief executive of the Lancashire group, Mr Anthony Sutcliffe, said that lawyers had written to the IBA, claiming that Lady Plowden's claim that new regions could not be created.

It is also expected that questions will be tabled in the House of Commons asking Lord Hailsham, the Home Office minister responsible for broadcasting, to define the IBA's powers.

The ruling has been greeted with particular bitterness among members of competing consortia because it has been made before the IBA has advertised for applications for the franchises. The advertisements were due to appear this month, but are now likely to be delayed until January. Contractors are due to be awarded next winter.

The IBA spokesman said: "We feel we are working within the meaning of the Broadcasting Act."

## Adult education council to last until 1983

By Our Education  
Correspondent

The Advisory Council for Adult and Continuing Education, whose chairman is Dr Richard Hoggart, is to be allowed to continue for a further three years after its present three-year office expires in October, 1982. Dr Hoggart, in a letter to Dr Hoggart, Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said that he had been impressed by the energy and enthusiasm with which the council had tackled a daunting task.

He recognized that the council had only just begun to make an impact on its two main tasks: the review of current practice and of how most effectively to use resources; and the clarification of the role of adult education as a producer of a coherent pattern of provision for present and future needs.

He felt, however, that advisory bodies should not, as a general rule, be set up for indefinite periods. He expressed his hope that the council would be able to complete its work within the next six years, and did not force a need for it to continue after October, 1983.

The council has an annual budget of £22,000.

## Storms put Radio Four transmitter out of action

Radio Four will stay off the

air for many listeners in England and Wales until at least tomorrow as engineers try to repair a storm-damaged transmitter. The 700-foot high aerial at Droitwich, near Birmingham, was damaged in Monday's 90mph gales. The BBC said aerials were designed to withstand winds of 110 mph. It was longed had weather had been too much for it. "The stress on the aerial over that period was enormous—the worst weather for decades," they said.

Radio Four can still be heard on VHF and in the South-West, London, Newcastle, Carlisle and Northern Ireland areas served by local medium wave stations. Snow blocked the 1,700ft Stannmore Pass on the A66 road between Penrith and Scotch Corner in Cumbria, yesterday, stranding a line of lorries a mile long.

High winds caused drifts and police stopped all heavy traffic while snowploughs battled for two hours to reopen the road. It was later described as passing with care. More snow is predicted in the next 24 hours.

Traffic was back to normal on the M6 in Cumbria after high winds on Monday had left

almost 400 lorries stranded at

the motorway service area at Southwaite.

A helicopter began airlifting more than 100 tons of feed to 60 remote sheep farms high in the Lake District fells. In Northamptonshire, a motorcyclist, Mr Philip Richard Emmerson, aged 20, of Banbury, Oxfordshire, was blown off his machine and found with head injuries at the top of a hill near Middleton Cheney. He died later.

Shipping and coastguards along the south coast are searching for a missing coaster, the St Ann of Alderney, 300 tons, which was last heard of at 1 am on Monday, passing the Hook of Holland bound for Exmouth, Devon.

In the past 36 hours severe storms have swept the channel. More than 20 large ships sheltered off Torbay.

In the English Channel the search has been called off for two French trawlers lost in the violent storms. Bristol Channel coastguards are watching for a dozen 45-tonner drifters of which one is carrying a highly poisonous chemical which were lost overboard from a Kuwaiti vessel off St Ann's Head, South Wales. The blue drums are labelled Basrah.

## Police wait for Wormwood Scrubs inquiry

By Peter Evans  
Home Affairs Correspondent

Scotland Yard is likely to wait for an official Prison Department inquiry before deciding whether to investigate allegations that criminal offences took place at Wormwood Scrubs prison on August 31.

Scotland Yard confirmed last night that correspondence had been received from George E. Baker and Co., a firm of solicitors in Guildford, and that a reply had been sent. "We are not prepared to discuss the nature of our reply," the Yard said.

The allegations were raised at a meeting on Monday night held by the Howard League for Penal Reform. It followed a protest by the league that voluntary workers at Wormwood Scrubs had been dismissed for speaking out over use of the Mute squad, prison officers in the prison, and the use of force by the Mute squad.

During the incident 54 prisoners and 11 prison officers were injured.

## Tighter licence system to save mackerel stocks

By Our Agricultural  
Correspondent

Strict new curbs to protect the lucrative mackerel fishery from the depletion that has resulted from a purely British conservation policy in the absence of an agreed EEC fish policy, Mr Buchanan-Smith said.

"If we go on at the present pace the mackerel stock will be even more at risk," he said. "The step we have announced today is improving our ability to husband that resource."

He believed the cut in quotas would be "pretty serious for some of the bigger vessels". Mackerel is profitable because of the high demand for the fish and because prices are supported by the apparatus of the Common Agricultural Policy.

The ministry said yesterday that more than two thirds of the mackerel caught off south-west England so far this winter had been sold to 35 foreign processing vessels waiting outside British inshore waters. Twelve of those boats were from the Soviet Union and 10 from Bulgaria.

Next year a tougher licensing system will be introduced to restrict excessive fishing by large trawlers and boats from abroad which are registered in Britain to take advantage of the plentiful supply of mackerel. Such registering was

"perfectly correct", the minister said.

The Government had told the EEC about its new measures, but considered them part of a purely British conservation policy in the absence of an agreed EEC fish policy, Mr Buchanan-Smith said.

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## Provincial journalists vote 3-1 against pay offer of 14½%

By Donald MacIntyre  
Labour Reporter

Negotiators for the National Union of Journalists will meet the Newspaper Society this morning following the rejection by a three-to-one majority of the union's provincial members of an offer which would add, according to NUJ estimates, 14½ per cent in the wage bill in regional newspapers.

The society, which has so far emphasised that its offer is a final one, has a policy unlike that of many industrial employers of not backtracking annual pay awards if negotiations run beyond the normal settlement date of January 1. If the employers fail to improve their offer today, the union will have to decide its next step in some haste.

Unless there is a settlement the union is expected to convene a meeting of chapel (office branch) representatives next week which could ask meetings of members in the







## WEST EUROPE

# Slimming doctor is jailed for two years and ordered to pay £55,000 damages after girl's death

From Ian Murray  
Paris, Dec 18

The court in Clermont-Ferrand yesterday listened in horror to the story of the unnecessary death of a young university student, Mlle Frédérique Brun, 21.

After hearing details of the treatment she had been receiving for slimming, the court sentenced her specialist to two years' imprisonment with a fine of 50,000 francs (£3,333), the maximum penalty possible under the law—and ordered him to pay 500,000 francs damages to her family.

The trial was described as a test case of the Dr Jekylls of all breeds who practice such a trade, by M. Jean-Marie Rousseau, the public prosecutor. He demanded the maximum penalty for the specialist, Dr Pierre-Marie Painvin.

Dr Painvin intends to appeal against his sentence for manslaughter. He was not present during the hearing, having sent a letter saying he was "convinced" but the court ruled that this was merely an attempt at wasting time.

Because of this, under French law, defence lawyers were not allowed to plead. A warrant had been issued for his arrest. The dead girl's mother, Mme Martine Brun, told the court that she had been recommended by a friend to see Dr Painvin in 1975 when she wanted to lose weight. She had, however, given up the treatment he prescribed for her rather quickly and had soon gone back to the 151 stone she weighed beforehand.

The following year she sent

her daughter, a student of English in Moulon, to see Dr Painvin in his Paris surgery. Mlle Brun was only 5ft 11in and weighed nearly 11 stone and she was determined to try to avoid becoming as stout as her mother. She accordingly followed the doctor's orders very carefully, with the result that she died.

The girl was apparently given the usual form of consultation by the doctor. First she was given an electrocardiogram, then a 15-minute interview with the doctor. He gave her a prescription which had to be taken to a special chemist at Seine-Saint-Denis, where she was issued with capsules.

Between October, 1976, and the beginning of February, 1977, she lost just over two stones but still had not reached the target figure set by the doctor. He accordingly gave her a new prescription for stronger tablets. On February 19 she became so ill that her parents called the family doctor. Taken to hospital, she failed to respond to any treatment and died.

The post mortem examination showed that she had been taking massive doses of thiazine—a thyroid gland extract—mixed with strong sympathomimetics and diuretics in the capsules. The effect was to upset her thyroid gland, provoking a mechanical loss of weight, but ultimately causing heart failure.

Mme Brun told the court how she had watched her daughter becoming more and more ill, with dark purple patches spreading across her

face. She became extremely irritable and had temper tantrums. According to the prosecutor, the doctor was the best documented one, but there had been many others where patients following Dr Painvin's treatment had become extremely ill. In one case a woman had lost 9lb overnight with near-fatal consequences.

Nevertheless, he said, the doctor had made a real fortune since leaving general practice in order to specialize in 1971. Operating from his surgery in Boulevard Flandrin, with its telex machine, seven outside telephone lines and a team of three doctors, he was never short of clients prepared to pay him up to 350 francs for a 15-minute interview.

M. Rousseau calculated that the doctor had made an average of 10,000 francs a day and probably something like 20m francs since 1971. Even so he appears to have paid very little tax and has already been convicted of fiscal fraud and of swindling the social security.

The Ordre des Médecins, which is the controlling body for French doctors, suspended Dr Painvin from practising for three years from the beginning of this month, after the death of another of his patients, an overweight lady driver.

The prosecutor criticized the Order for being too slow to discipline Dr Painvin. Nevertheless, the Order sought and was granted one franc nominal damages against the doctor for "discrediting medical practice".

## Five Grapo leaders tunnel out of jail

From Harry Debelius  
Madrid, Dec 18

A hunt began today for five members of the left-wing extremist organization Grapo (First of October Anti-Fascist Resistance Groups) who tunneled their way out of a maximum-security prison in Zamora.

The five include at least three alleged leaders of the movement and are described by the police as "very dangerous". They took several months to dig the eight-yard escape tunnel in a corner of a bathroom, using a T-shaped piece of scrap iron and an aluminium plate.

They left the prison last night, some time between the 8 pm roll-call and the 11.30 pm bed check.

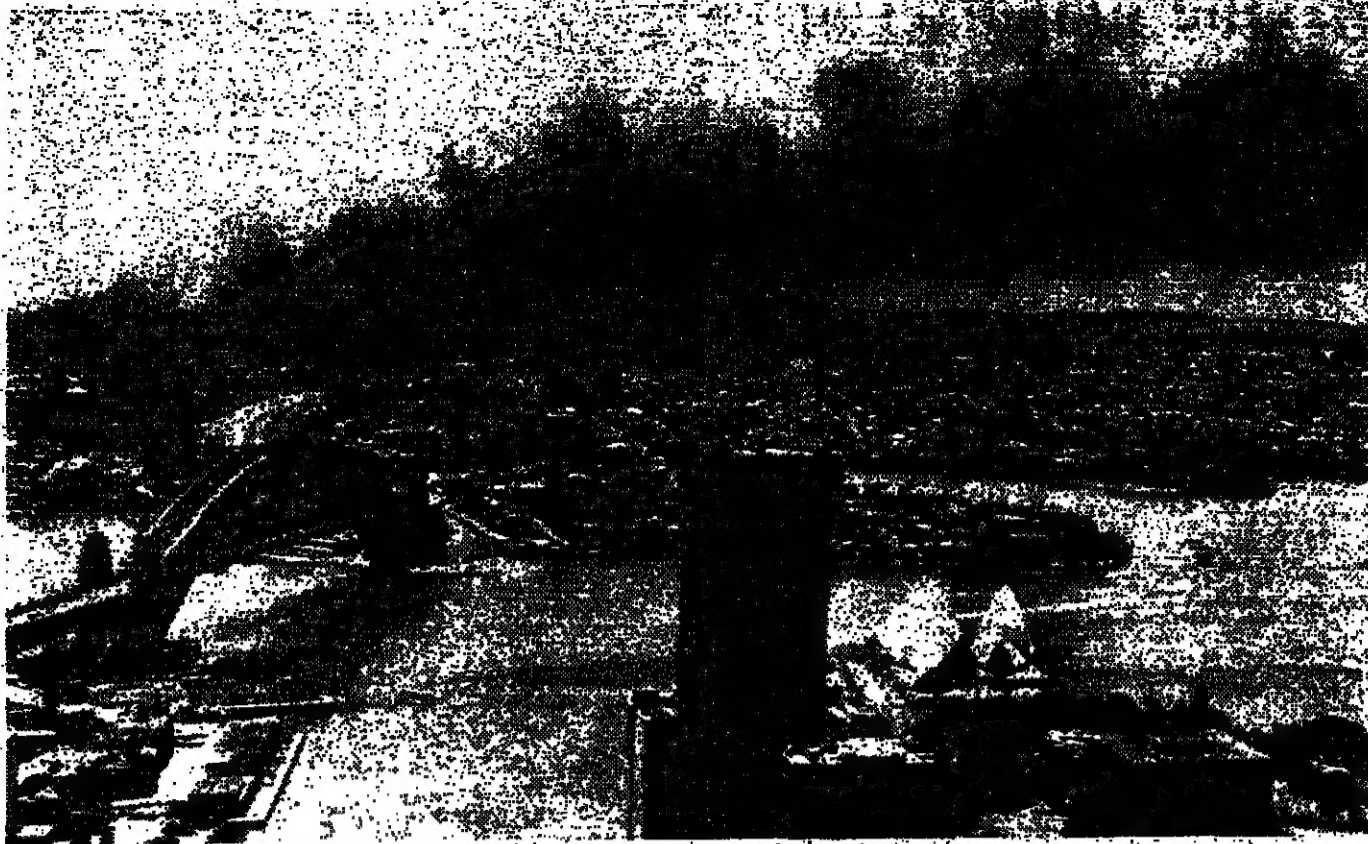
The tunnel entrance had been covered by floor tiles. The escapees apparently got rid of the earth they dug out by flushing it down the lavatories in the washroom.

Forty-eight known or suspected members of Grapo were held at Zamora prison. The offences in which the escapees were allegedly involved included two kidnappings—that of a banker and adviser to King Juan Carlos, Señor José María Oriol, in 1976, and the 1977 abduction of the president of the Military Supreme Court, General Emilio Villacueva.

"We thought the Grapo file was closed," said a police official, "but now we have to start all over again."

Authorities investigating the fatal shooting of two youths in a riot here last Thursday have found evidence suggesting some shots might have been fired from buildings near by.

## OVERSEAS



Arson blamed: Mr William Hurditch, the New South Wales fire coordinator, said yesterday that arsonists started the devastating fires roaring through the wooded outskirts of Sydney. Thousands of exhausted firefighters struggled to keep the flames from residential suburbs, while a black pall of

smoke hangs on the horizon (shown above). "We know from experience when a fire has been caused by lightning or friction and when it has been deliberately lit," Mr Hurditch told reporters after flying over woodlands consumed by the worst bush fire in the area for 25 years. Raging in a broad arc, the

fires have engulfed houses, cars and stables and caused one death. The fires were brought under control last night after the wind direction changed and the temperature dropped. But a dozen separate fires still were smouldering in bushland north of the city which could become dangerous if a predicted heatwave occurs.

## Bishop Muzorewa holds back on signing Rhodesia ceasefire

From Nicholas Ashford  
Salisbury, Dec 18

Today it was the turn of Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the former Prime Minister, to delay the reaching of a final agreement at the Lancaster House settlement talks on Rhodesia.

The man whose party, the United African National Council (UANC), has for the past few weeks been accused of the number of armed guerrillas operating inside the country at between 15,000 and 17,000, but the Patriotic Front leaders now are claiming twice that number.

In his announcement Bishop Muzorewa emphasized that it was still his earnest desire to conclude an honourable agreement as soon as possible.

Bishop Muzorewa did not attend a meeting today with Lord Soames, the British Governor of Southern Rhodesia. However Lord Soames did have his first meeting with Mr Ian Smith, the former white Prime Minister, who declined to greet the Governor when he arrived in Salisbury last week.

Lord Soames has made it clear that until there is a formal signing of the ceasefire agreement the ban on the Patriotic Front will remain in force and that he will hold back on introducing reforms he wants to introduce.

The Patriotic Front has only 13 days left until the December 31 deadline set by Lord Soames to register as a political party to contest next year's election. Until the ceasefire agreement is signed the Patriotic Front will remain in its present limbo in which Lord Soames, Governor in name but not prepared to act in such a way

to prepare his forces for a ceasefire.

Bishop Muzorewa is also believed to be concerned about the number of guerrillas that will be allowed to congregate in assembly areas. British and Rhodesian estimates put the number of armed guerrillas operating inside the country at between 15,000 and 17,000, but the Patriotic Front leaders now are claiming twice that number.

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as to justify his title. Similarly, until the agreement has been signed and sealed the airlift of the Commonwealth ceasefire monitoring force will continue to be delayed.

David Spaulding, Diplomatic Correspondent, writes: The Patriotic Front is looking forward to a triumphant welcome from its supporters when Mr Joshua Nkomo and Mr Mugabe, the co-leaders, return to Rhodesia from the London talks. The Patriotic Front leadership now is making election plans after its decision to accept the ceasefire.

The formal signing ceremony will probably be put off until tomorrow, depending on whether Bishop Muzorewa decides to fly back to London for it. The occasion, with Lord Carrington, as conference chairman, signing for the British Government, is to be held in the long gallery at Lancaster House.

Mr Nkomo has indicated that the two wings of the Patriotic Front would probably fight the election as one party.

Britain is to provide about 700 men for the ceasefire monitoring force and Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Kenya, the remainder to a total of 1,200. The cost of the ceasefire operation is likely to exceed the figure of £5.5m mentioned in the Southern Rhodesia Bill, according to British officials.

Leading article, page 13  
Growth in 1980, page 16  
Parliamentary report, page 5

## Thatcher plan for the 1980s explained

Continued from page 1

Her eight points included: to improve the world economy and the economy of individual nations; to conserve energy and achieve an understanding with oil producers; to modernise defences while seeking agreements with the East; to help the developing countries to help themselves; and to assert our faith in freedom and our belief in the institutions which sustain it.

Of these, the matters she devoted most attention to were the relations with the communist countries, which she discussed in uncompromising terms calculated to appeal to the conservatives in her audience. "The Soviet Union continues to proclaim the ideological struggle," she declared, reinforcing the point with a quotation from Lenin.

While failing to repudiate their ideological ambitions, she noted, the Russians continued to expand their forces. "We can argue about Soviet motives but the fact is that the Russians have the weapons and are getting more of them. It is simple arithmetic for the West to respond," she said.

After repeating her support and admiration for the way in which President Carter's administration has handled the Tehran hostage crisis, Mrs Thatcher delivered some general remarks about revolutionary ideology.

"I am convinced that there is little force left in the Marxist stimulus to revolution," she said. "Its impetus is petering out as the practical failures of the doctrine become more obvious. . . . What is left is a technique of subversion and a collection of catch-phrases. The former is still dangerous. Like terrorism, it is a menace that needs to be fought wherever it occurs."

Mrs Thatcher arrived in New York from Washington this morning. Her visit has been well received. She achieved the public rare distinction of being interviewed on all three network programmes this morning.

The New York Times welcomed her in a friendly editorial, calling her "the most effective British statesman since Harold Macmillan," mainly on the strength of the Rhodesia settlement. She was, the newspaper said, "no longer just a friend and ally, but an acclaimed peacemaker."

David Cross writes from Washington: Mrs Thatcher left the American capital for New York today clearly exuberant at what by popular consent had been a highly successful series of meetings with President Carter and Administration and Congressional officials.

"She had greatly enjoyed her whirlwind visit to Washington, not least the marvellously warm welcome she had been accorded," she said at a breakfast press conference. Even her failure to persuade Mr Carter to approve the sale of revolvers to the Royal Ulster Constabulary in Northern Ireland appeared in not to have dampened her spirits.

## No response to Spanish plea on EEC entry talks

From Our Own Correspondent  
Brussels, Dec 18

EEC foreign ministers declined to respond here today to a Spanish plea that the negotiations on Spain's application to join the Community should be concluded in the near future.

Sir Ian Gilmour, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said his EEC colleagues listened politely to the request from Señor Calvo Sotelo, Spain's minister in charge of relations with the Nine, but offered no comment.

Señor Sotelo said that Spain would like the main points in dispute between the two sides to be clarified during the first half of 1980 and appropriate solutions to be agreed by the end of the year. This would open the way for signature of an accession treaty during 1981.

The Spanish are becoming worried that the pace of their membership negotiations is flagging and that this could jeopardize their hopes of gaining entry to the EEC on January 1, 1983.

This fear was raised by Señor Calvo Sotelo, the Spanish Prime Minister, during talks in Brussels last weekend with Mr Roy Jenkins, the President of the European Commission. Mr Jenkins promised to do what he could to speed things up.

Señor Sotelo said today that his government was particularly anxious for early agreement on the length of the transitional period after entry over which Spain's full economic integration into the Community should be phased.

In Spain's view the transitional period should last between five and ten years.

## Norwegian crisis resolved

From Our Correspondent  
Oslo, Dec 18

The week-long political crisis which threatened to topple Norway's minority Labour Government, finally ended today when Parliament confirmed last Saturday's vote in favour of an income policy. The Bill providing for wage restraint was passed by a majority of one.

The event is the non-Socialist Opposition and the Socialist left which had to give ground after having secured as-

surances from Mr Odvar Nordli, the Prime Minister, that the Bill would not be allowed to discriminate against any sector with regard to wage negotiation rights.

The wage restraint is to stay in force until March 1982, by which time it is generally hoped that the steadily increasing revenues from Norway's offshore oil will enable the country to buy its way out of recession.

Norway: Special Report, today

## Broadcasting strike today in protest at politicians' plan to break up Norddeutscher Rundfunk

## German TV network threatened

From Patricia Clough  
Bonn, Dec 18

West Germany's broadcasting workers will go on strike tomorrow evening—unless stopped by a last-minute court action—in protest against plans by politicians to break up one of the country's largest broadcasting corporations, the Norddeutscher Rundfunk (NDR).

Officially, the 8 pm to midnight strike—only the second in the history of the NDR—has history—is about jobs. But behind it is the fear that the break-up of the NDR would mark the beginning of the end of public broadcasting here and open the way for private and commercial broadcasting with greater political control.

The future of the North German network has been in the balance since Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, Prime Minister of Schleswig-Holstein—one of the three Länder it serves—saw red over its reporting of protests about a planned nuclear power-station.

The Christian Democratic politician this was the last straw after what he saw as long and consistent left-wing reporting and comment in the net-

work. Accusing it also of gross overspending and ignoring regional interests, he gave notice that he would terminate the NDR contract at the end of December, 1980.

But the lead in the dispute was soon taken over by Herr Ernst Albrecht, the Christian Democratic Minister of Lower Saxony, the highest Land served by the NDR. The network, he declared, should reflect the views of the majority of North Germans. At present the majority vote Christian Democrat.

The two entered into long and involved negotiations with Herr Hans-Ulrich Klose, the Social Democratic Chief Burgomaster of Hamburg, who has firmly resisted any change. The result—unless Herr Klose succeeds in getting it stopped by the federal administrative court—will probably be the takeover of the NDR by the two Christian Democratic Länder, leaving Hamburg to fend for itself.

This, it seems, would satisfy Herr Albrecht's immediate ambition and help him to achieve the next—to introduce private television.

Not by chance, private and commercial television is developing into a big political issue less than a year before the Bundestag elections. Earlier this week Christian Democratic opposition leaders in North Rhine-Westphalia, accused the NDR of being a political bias and said that if they won the crucial Land elections next May they will set up a commercial network under public control.

Behind the Christian Democrat's interest in private television lies a long, deep and sometimes not entirely rational frustration with the media. Since they went into opposition 10 years ago, they have found it difficult to resign themselves to seeing their politicians given less attention than the Social Democrats and Free Democrats in the federal Government.

They also point out that the majority of journalists, programme-makers and intellectuals in general lean to the left, although whether this actually influences the television-watching public is impossible to prove. Many Christian Democrats suspect that it lost them the last elections.

## Bulgarian spy in umbrella affair jailed in Paris

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, Dec 18

Dmitri Dinev, a Bulgarian-born film and yogurt salesman, was jailed today in Paris for his part in the "poisoned umbrella" case.

During the hearing the court was told that Dinev was involved in a minor way in the "poisoned umbrella" attacks in London and Paris. Recruited to obtain information on Bulgarian emigrants in the Bulgarian Consulate in Paris, he was also alleged to be a double agent.

He was not involved in the case of Georgi Markov, the Bulgarian writer and broadcaster, who died in London after being stabbed with a poisoned umbrella in September, 1978.

He did, however, keep in touch with Mr Vladimir Kostov, a former Bulgarian television reporter, had been hidden

Mesrine aide held.

Paris, Dec 18. — Christian Kopt, an accomplice of Jacques Mesrine, the French gangster who died by police last month, was arrested in a Paris café today.

## Küng ideas 'a cause of disturbance' to minds of faithful

Continued from page 1  
cloak-and-dagger action aimed at discrediting a member of their own church.

Herr Helmut Engler, the Baden-Württemberg Education Minister, said Professor Küng would be offered another post at Tübingen University, and nine of the 11 professors at the theological faculty issued a statement saying: "We are shocked by this strong move by the Congregation and by this entire action. Professor Küng himself said he was 'ashamed' of his church and would fight for its decision to be revoked. The UPT report concluded.

Assisting that the Church had "received from God the mandate to keep and to safeguard the deposit of faith . . . and that theological research and teaching should always be 'illumined with fidelity to the magisterium, since no one may rightly act as a theologian except in close union with the mission of teaching truth which is incumbent on the Church itself'."

Arriving at the specific issue, the Congregation's statement said some of the writings and the teaching of Professor Küng are "a cause of disturbance to the minds of the faithful". The bishops of Germany and the

Congregation had several times "counselled and warned him in order to persuade him to carry on his theological work in full communion with the authentic magisterium of the Church."

After noting that some of Professor Küng's opinion were opposed to the doctrine of the church, the statement said he was warned not to teach such opinions, but he did not change his attitude. This was particularly evident concerning doubts cast on the dogma of infallibility. He was also accused of holding views not in accord with the church's doctrines on the divinity of Christ and on

the Virgin Mary.

The statement concludes by saying that Professor Küng had departed in his writings from the "integral truth of Catholic faith and therefore can no longer be considered a Catholic theologian nor function as such in a teaching role". It was signed by Cardinal Saper, the Congregation's Prefect.

The punishment of Professor Küng will shock much of the Catholic world. He was one of the leading theological advisers during the Second Vatican Council and is much in demand as a lecturer as well as a writer. His books are published in many languages.

## S African jailed four years for killing black

Johannesburg, Dec 18. — A white man who stabbed a black man to death for causing a row in the servant's quarters was jailed for eight years, with four years suspended, here today.

"It is time you and people like you realized that you cannot assault a black man because he won't listen to you or won't immediately do what you tell him," Judge C. S. Margo of the Supreme Court said in passing sentence.

The accused, Johannes Adam Ziesman, aged 29, was said in court to have argued with Mr Zacharia Mokoena after Mr Ziesman's servant asked for help in getting Mr Mokoena and other blacks out of the servant's room because they were drinking and had become rowdy.

## Mr Trudeau to lead Liberals again

From John Best  
Ottawa, Dec 18

Mr Pierre Trudeau, the former Prime Minister, today announced that he has accepted the call of the Liberal Party and will lead the party into Canada's national election in February.

It was only a month ago that Mr Trudeau, aged 60, decided to step down after 11 years as party leader.

But the Liberals did not have time to choose a successor before the Conservative Government of Mr Joe Clark was defeated on a confidence vote last Thursday.

During the weekend both the Liberal Party's parliamentary caucus and the national executive voted to ask Mr Trudeau to speed up his decision, and today he told a press conference that he would accede to their wishes.

"I have a duty to accept the call of my party," he said. He coupled his announcement with a harsh attack on the Conservative Government, which he said was "promises abandoned" and "denouncing their budget as 'disastrous' for lower- and middle-income Canadians."

The budget, which proposed to more than double the price of crude oil in Canada over four years and nearly quadruple the tax on petrol, effective immediately, precipitated the Conservative defeat.

With the Government's defeat the budget was voided but Mr Clark has pledged to re-introduce its most important provisions if he is returned to office in the election.

... supporter  
... Khomeini  
... in Tehran

... 10 ...

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... 10 ...















in a poor second class to ex-wives. A child is not supported once it is grown up. The ex-wife can be kept forever. Some husbands visit only a few of the children of the marriage, and pay their ex-wives maintenance. Some ex-wives who desert their families are rarely ordered to pay anything. Everyone pays lip service to the importance of the family. Yet the senior judges can seriously debate whether this is the precise level of subsistence for a divorced man, his second wife and children when deciding how much he should pay an ex-wife who, at this rung on the income ladder, may be better off on social security anyway.

Moreover the family that ends up with a subsistence income after paying an order for maintenance will find that this burden is completely ignored when it applies for Family Income Supplement, or rental rate rebates. Somewhere between the demands of the courts and the regulations of the Department of Health and Social Security is a poverty trap into which ex-wives income group second wife and her family can all too easily fall.

Perhaps the most telling comment on the present system came from a second wife who claimed her husband was paying his ex-wife maintenance that he had officially deserted her so that she and her children could be better off on social security. As Mr Micawber might put it if he were alive and divorced today—one wife, one income may equal unhappiness because two wives, one income can mean misery.

**Maggie Drummond**

Photograph by BO Warhurst

next autumn.) It will be a year or so before the dust settles and there may yet prove to be a case for some single sex colleges in Oxford.

I am not a women's libber, but I am a feminist. A feminist is a woman who wants to succeed in a man's world, or who is definitely not anti-man. She is a long-lasting relationship between a man and a woman is, for me, the most rewarding thing in life. My family will continue to be the centre of my life."

**Diana Geddes**  
Fluoricon Correspondent

essentially very simple: a thin, plastic tube is fitted beneath the skin so that insulin may be injected throughout the body by a portable, electric pump worn on the back. The rate of the injection can be varied at meal times, for example, either by the diabetic himself or by the incorporation of a variable programme into the controls of the syringe-pump. More elaborate—and at present still in the research stage—is a device which not only injects insulin but also measures the blood-glucose content and varies the dose of insulin so as to maintain the glucose in the normal range. An apparatus which measures glucose, calculates the insulin dose, and administers it is mimicking the normal functions of the body closely enough to justify the name "artificial pancreas". Preliminary trials by diabetics of a portable artificial pancreas machine have given encouraging results, with the amount of the amounts of glucose (and other chemicals) in the blood so normal.

As yet, of course, there is no proof that these methods of improvement in the chemical control of diabetes will reduce the frequency and severity of the complications; but the current generation of newly diagnosed diabetics has a more hopeful future.

**Dr Tony Smith**  
*Medical Correspondent*

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## ART GALLERIES

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## THE ARTS

## Generation game

## Heroes New End

## Irving Wardle

Plays 'bringing West End spectators up to date with the Oxbridge young were once a standard consumer service, and my only complaint against Doug Lucie's sharply observed comedy is that it panders too readily to the middle-aged impulse to dismiss under-graduates as obnoxious parasites.

Two Oxford generations are on view, and there is not much to pick between the 1969 and 1979 vintages; both having received the full benefit of Mr Lucie's talent for waspish dialogue and monstrously egoistic characterization. The device, holding the play's two acts together is a room, first passing from a squat into the hands of the students' union, and then reverting to the market when the 10-year lease expires. Another playwright might have used this form to draw a contrast between the social ideals of the 1960s and the return to narrow class privileges 10 years later; but that is not Mr Lucie's way. He does indeed follow up a

passionate young 1969 Marxist with a homosexual young 1979 disco dancer—both played to the arrogant baby-faced life by Philip Franks; but you would not give either of them the time of day.

There is another contrast between the play's two parts. The first act consists of a highly schematic comedy, bringing the Marxist bully into conflict with a pair of American acid-trippers and the Mancunian worker who responds to his ideological advances with a thump on the nose. The second act, although it introduces a Cowley shop steward (David Bamber) who passes reproachful comments on the decline of student commitment. This place used to be a common room, but now it is a house, thank God, seems to be drawn from the mess of ordinary life. Or, rather, the extraordinary mess; there is a suicide, an academic calamity, and a religious virgin sexually ignited by a porno magazine.

Aside from a general statement on human selfishness and panic, no clear pattern emerges, but the characters are drawn with almost a healthy and extremely well played by Penny Cheras's company, who extract as much effect from reversals as from continuity.



Offenbach approaches his first theatre in the Champs Elysées three years before the composition of *Mesdames de la Halle*; Leonard Pezzino and Marie Christine Porta in that opera at the Opéra Comique

## Hilarious start to Offenbach's centenary

A goodly number of the world's opera houses will next year be paying tribute to Jacques Offenbach on the hundredth anniversary of his death. The *Tales of Hoffmann* is the obvious choice; but Covent Garden both have new productions with Domingo in the title role. Those with a taste for the exact, though, might be inclined to point out that Hoffmann was staged posthumously and has a further year to go before achieving its century.

However, Paris has this month anticipated the centenary celebrations by turning over both its opera houses, the Palais Garnier and the Salle Favart, to the Mozart of the Champs-Élysées. At the Opéra there is a revival of Patrice Chéreau's five-year-old production of *Hoffmann* sharing the stage with that company are down at the Palais des Sports with Nureyev, who danced Maïtred in his new ballet of the same name for the first time last Saturday afternoon, as John Percival will report later.

At the Opéra Comique Offenbach is in total command with a triple bill of one-acters, called appropriately enough *Vive Offenbach!* Paris, Offenbach's adopted city, has managed to beat by a few days

lissier's performance, neat and flirtatious though it is, tends to be overshadowed by the broader playing of Jean-Philippe Lafont as the uncle and Leonard Pezzino as the lachrymose nephew, Donizetti's Ernesto in the making it ever there was one.

The three operas which make up *Vive Offenbach!* (*Pomme d'api*, *Monsieur Choufleuri* and *Mesdames de la Halle*) are played in reverse order of composition. On paper this might seem a perverse decision; on stage it is totally justified. *Pomme d'api* is a piece of froth, an apple soufflé, which Offenbach composed in his mid-fifties when he was turning out a number of operettas which looked back in part to his first works for the theatre. The plot, such as it is, leans heavily on *Don Pasquale*: a prosperous middle-aged bachelor is looking forward to the arrival of his new maid-servant; she turns out to be the mistress of his nephew, who has been kept on short commons by his uncle for the past couple of years. After half a dozen very lively songs and a quantity of champagne uncle succumbs, agrees to the marriage of the young pair and adds a substantial financial slice to his nephew's allowance.

Offenbach wrote the title role (*Lady Apple*) for the horticultural inclined for the vaudeville star Louise Théo. At the Opéra Comique Christine

and Dhéry concentrates on a series of non-stop gags, which include a melancholy droll, Gerard Louine, as a drunken lamp-lighter. Leonard Pezzino and Marie-Christine Porta sing sweetly as the couple who find their way to one another's arms through the confusion and Charles Burles turns in another excellent performance as the policeman Ruffalo. Offenbach's equivalent of Sergeant Balfour. In sum, an evening of great hilarity, the musical gnomes manners under the veteran conductor Manuel Rosenthal.

At the Opéra there are two major changes of cost in the *Hoffmann* revival. Kenneth Riegel lacks the magic Nicolai Gedde brought to the title role when the production was new. Gedde suggested that beneath Hoffmann's drunken and dishevelled exterior there was a visionary; Riegel, despite some intermittently warm singing, stresses the harshness of Patrice Chéreau's production too much. On the other hand Danielle Cloutova, the new Olympia, is a delight; a trim and sparkling doll whose notes are piped out with fine accuracy until she falls apart before Hoffmann's eyes. Sylvain Cambreling has plenty of feeling for the score, but not yet the expertise of his predecessor Georges Prêtre.

The running joke in Dhéry's staging of *Mesdames de la Halle* is the first Offenbach opera to use a large cast and a chorus, is that the *mesdames* are *mesdemoiselles*—Tremont and Lafont in drag joined by Michel Hamel. It is as if Offenbach had been looking at the *Crazy Gang* of a year or so ago, dressed as blowy stall-holders. Offenbach intended much of the score as a parody of Meyerbeer's concerted numbers, but the target is rather less familiar than it was a century or so ago

John Higgins

hilo. He has become a secular saint, who named war and violence as obscenity, and brought openness about sexuality into moderately good reprieve. Television and radio may not see fit to broadcast his recordings in full uncensored form, but his words and routines are back in nightclubs and there are no police queueing for the arrest.

*Bits of Lenny Bruce* is the movable bit that began its London life at the King's Head Theatre Club, and now established as a new policy of early evening satire at the Embassy Club in Old Bond Street. The team that plays it, including Danny Brainin, have learnt the lesson about "tragedy plus time" and the nearest they come to the present is the current name of the Pope. What Mr Brainin, Denis Lawson and Barbara Kuhl offer is a precisely drilled and wisely selected procession of Bruce's most theatrical fragments.

A lot of Bruce's comedy is still intact, as are the institutions he satirized. The institution of second marriage is perhaps even stronger. While the passing of time has not reduced the humour of the lines, repetition has dulled some of the sharper thrusts. Harm, and benign playing by the company, also takes some of the edge off jokes on liberal racial tolerance. Jews, Catholics and politics, but the perceptions remain funny.

There is a difference. When Bruce turned the taunt of anti-Semitic Christianity back on himself, as a Jew, "Yeah, did it. We killed Christ. And we will do it again when he comes back," he was capable of going anywhere with his jokes. However, neatly trimmed, which it is, and winningly played, which it is, *Bits of Lenny Bruce* is finally devoid of danger, which Bruce never was. Still, as an opening show for a club dedicated to satire it could hardly raise higher standards.

John Higgins

## Bits of Lenny Bruce Embassy Club

## Ned Chaillet

Compulsive truth-telling combined with manic fantasy must have a clinical name. For the sake of simplicity we can call it satire. We speak of Lenny Bruce, but Bruce's own definition of satire took account of public acceptability. He called it "Tragedy Plus Time" and suggested that a reasonable subject for laughter in the future. He must have lived in a time zone that just anticipated the acceptable time, for his targets and language, his routines about sex, religion and indeed Hitler were a little too early for nearly everyone except posterity.

Now time has cleaned up his act and the hypodermic needle that killed him has taken on a

hilo. He has become a secular saint, who named war and violence as obscenity, and brought openness about sexuality into moderately good reprieve. Television and radio may not see fit to broadcast his recordings in full uncensored form, but his words and routines are back in nightclubs and there are no police queueing for the arrest.

*Bits of Lenny Bruce* is the movable bit that began its London life at the King's Head Theatre Club, and now established as a new policy of early evening satire at the Embassy Club in Old Bond Street. The team that plays it, including Danny Brainin, have learnt the lesson about "tragedy plus time" and the nearest they come to the present is the current name of the Pope. What Mr Brainin, Denis Lawson and Barbara Kuhl offer is a precisely drilled and wisely selected procession of Bruce's most theatrical fragments.

A lot of Bruce's comedy is still intact, as are the institutions he satirized. The institution of second marriage is perhaps even stronger. While the passing of time has not reduced the humour of the lines, repetition has dulled some of the sharper thrusts. Harm, and benign playing by the company, also takes some of the edge off jokes on liberal racial tolerance. Jews, Catholics and politics, but the perceptions remain funny.

There is a difference. When Bruce turned the taunt of anti-Semitic Christianity back on himself, as a Jew, "Yeah, did it. We killed Christ. And we will do it again when he comes back," he was capable of going anywhere with his jokes. However, neatly trimmed, which it is, and winningly played, which it is, *Bits of Lenny Bruce* is finally devoid of danger, which Bruce never was. Still, as an opening show for a club dedicated to satire it could hardly raise higher standards.

John Higgins

## Jacek Strauch Purcell Room

## Hilary Finch

It is always good to see a singer who enjoys his own recitals: from the minute he breezed on stage as the jolly Alpine hunter man in the first of six Schubert songs, Jacek Strauch engaged warmly and easily with his full marks for performance.

But as he moved to the more thoughtful "Zugendzeit" and "An den Mond" this physical relaxation showed itself at the expense of a vocal intensity, that cannot be underplayed in Schubert. In both "Romance" (of Richard the Lionheart), or in the satisfy-

ingly weighty solemnity of the first and third of Brahms's *Four Serious Songs*, Mr Strauch sang in fully supported and powerfully dramatic voice. But this is as yet, incomparably, interested with the lighter lyric voice which lacks a comparable intensity and power to move.

Oh, Tod, wie bitter bist du was darkly resonant and particularly deeply felt. After the interval, the Teutonic gave way to the Slavic with three songs by Tchaikovsky, three by Liszt, and three by Rachmaninov. Here Mr Strauch was clearly both musically and emotionally at home, reveling in the romance of the music and the language of Tchaikovsky's "I love you, woods," sung with a nice smoky texture in the middle register, and

left no doubt of Miss Kawai's nobility, although loud passages suffered, as had the Schubert, from an oppressive yet shallow tone. David Surton's *Tales* proved to be a quietly ponderous modern piece.

Another debut concert was a curious mixture. John Leach played on the cimbalom pieces by obscure Hungarian composers such as Cserekmak and Szerdahelyi. Joanna Leach played Liszt Rhapsodies and other things on the piano. The actual debutante was Dominique Thibaud, a soprano, who was accompanied by Joyce Riddell. She sang two well-chosen Liszt groups in a pure, somewhat monotonous voice but pointing the words rather well. There were also selections of old Hungarian popular music in which she was accompanied by cimbalom, violin (Barbara Penny) and double bass (Rodney Slater). Like the cimbalom solos, these seemed dilutions of Gypsy music.

Max Harrison

## London debuts

Saint-Saëns Clarinet Sonata, opus 167, is decently crafted, but not inspiring, and it made a non-committal start to Steven Kanoff's recital. It showed, however, that he has a good technique, a clear tone and excellent control of pitch, and at least the music has a certain grace and elegance. Poulenc's Sonata D559, had obviously been prepared with much care and the notes were delivered immaculately. Yet there was little depth or direction to the Allegro, and although the slow movement's lyrical outer sections were finely sustained, Miss Kawai appeared to have little idea of what the notes meant in the scherzo or finale.

She got a better tone in Scriabin's Sonata No. 3, the first movement having something of the appropriate dark richness and a more convincing sense of forward motion. The Andante sounded ardent and exquisite, and it is a pity the other movements got rather out of control. Liszt's *Mephisto Waltz*, No. 1

works. She has a sick mother (head of the millinery department) and two pushy sisters, but there is no fairy godmother, only the intervention of the boss's valet, who brings a dress; the presence, not well explained of a mysterious barrel organ, and the help of two pet doves, which perform Cinderella's allotted evening task of sorting out some artificial flowers.

Consequently, there is not really much in the way of a plot, but what there is mainly follows the traditional theme. The choreography is proficient, varied and at times funny, but it contains no great flights of imagination. Still it makes a pretty show, aided by Peter Farmer's designs, which are handsome even if they do not define a specific place or period.

The candor of male dancing in the company has developed impressively, especially with the acquisition of Ross Stretton from Australia. His dashing elegance as the hero is closely followed by Ian Knowles as his young brother. Sui Kan Chiang dances sympathetically as Cinderella, but Alexandra Worrall makes more of the character of stepmother. Fanchon, the Northern Ballet Orchestra, conducted by Christopher Tadmor-Robins, plays with enthusiastic gusto. No point hurrying to book: the three-week season at the Royal Northern College of Music is already sold out.



Sui Kan Chiang and Ross Stretton in *Cinderella*

## Cinderella Manchester

## John Percival

After innumerable ballets set to a pot-pourri of music by the Strauss family, here is the British premiere of the only full-length score written by the younger Johann Strauss as a ballet.

You must not expect such sustained brilliance from it as, for instance, *Sam Danube*, or *Graduation Ball*, where the arrangers took their pick of the best available tunes. But who will sniff at the chance to hear three acts, each half an hour long, of almost completely unfamiliar music by the king of waltz, with a fair share of polkas and other dance rhythms too?

The score has charm and prettiness, rather than drama or excitement. Also, having been written for what was, at the turn of the century, a modern dress version, it lends itself to a treatment deliberately removed from fairy-tales. Even so it is astonishing that the ballet has not been given on any stage for 60 years.

Robert de Warren's production for Northern Ballet Theatre mainly follows the plot of the first production in 1901. Its heroine is a milliner's assistant, her dream lover is the owner of the store where she

works. She has a sick mother (head of the millinery department) and two pushy sisters, but there is no fairy godmother, only the intervention of the boss's valet, who brings a dress; the presence, not well explained of a mysterious barrel organ, and the help of two pet doves, which perform Cinderella's allotted evening task of sorting out some artificial flowers.

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Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions

## New ballet by Ronald Hynd

The British premiere of Ronald Hynd's *Papillon* will be given at the Grand Theatre, Leeds, on February 7 by the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet. The London premiere will follow at Sadler's Wells on February 19. The work, which was created for the Houston Ballet earlier this year, has a heroine who is transformed into a butterfly. The music is the only full-length ballet score written by Offenbach and the production is being mounted as part of the celebrations for the Offenbach centenary next year. Dancers in the initial cast include Margaret Barbieri, Stephen Jefferys, Carl Myers and David Bintliff.

## Graham Greene's 'elegant comedy'

The Haymarket Theatre, Leicester, will give the premiere of *For Whom the Bell Chimes* by Graham Greene as part of its spring season. The play, described as an elegant comedy, will be presented in the Haymarket studio from March 20 to April 12. Other studio productions early next year include Hugh Whitemore's *Stevie*, Strindberg's *Credence* and a new translation of Alfred de Musset's *On ne badine pas avec l'amour*, entitled *A Love Match*.

## Charity gala

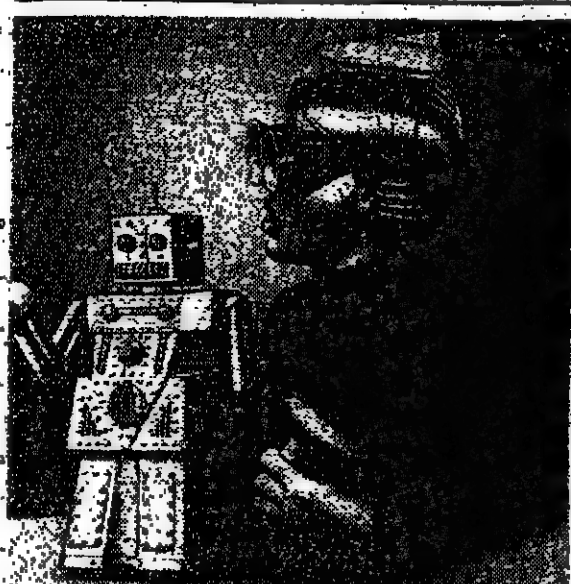
Natalie Makarova, the Russian ballerina, and Zizi Jeanmaire are among some of the world's greatest dancers who have responded to a call from Miss Jacqueline du Pré to take part in a gala at the London Coliseum next March to raise £50,000 for research into multiple sclerosis, the disease that stopped Miss du Pré's brilliant career as a cellist.

## Play competition

Alan Ayckbourn will be the final judge for the International Student Playscript Competition for unperformed plays written by students. Conditions and entry forms are available from the World Student Drama Trust, 20 Lansdowne Road, Muswell Hill, London N10 2AU. The closing date is December 31, 1980.

## The Times special reports.

All the subject matter on all the subjects that matter.



## Christmas Holidays at the Tate

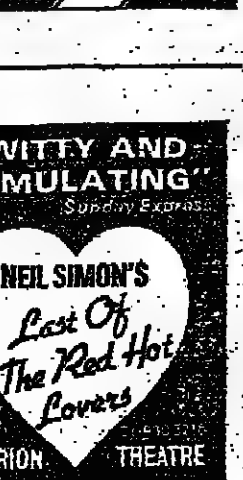
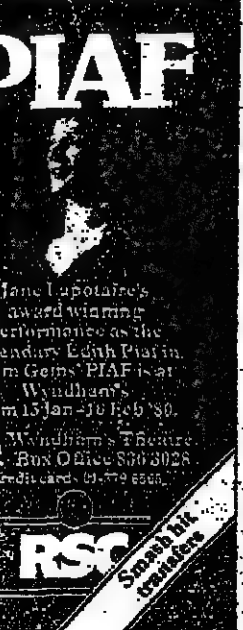
Hunt the Parcel 17 December-12 January. For 8-14 olds: a pencil-and-paper game and a drawing competition with prizes. A closer look at paintings in the Tate reveals a trail of surprises.

Christmas Tree Guessing Game 3-20 December. A Tate Christmas Tree will be decorated with strands of works in the collection. Bring your children guess the number of postcards. On 20 December at 10.00 prizes will be awarded for the first three correct guesses taken from the guessing box. The Tate Volunteers have organised the game, with the tree donated by the Friends of the Tate and prizes by Tate Publications.

The Gift of Colour 20 December at 13.00. Mr Stie will give a talk for young people about the Christmas Tree.

## TATE GALLERY

Millbank London SW1  
Weekdays 10-6, Sundays 2-6. Closed 24, 25 and 26 December and 1 January. Recorded information on 01-821 7128.



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# How the Blue Chip Tories are raising their voices

When two Greeks meet, it is said, they set up a restaurant. Hiding behind the same oversimplification, it is a safe bet that when a new intake of Conservatives arrive in Parliament they form dining clubs, if only to give themselves moral support as they unravel the mysteries of the place.

It has happened on this occasion under the new Conservative administration, but in a way which could have important political implications. Though the Government came to power on a free market, non-interventionist, monetarist platform, the majority of the new backbenchers are not, as one of them put it, Foujastists to a man.

With the Parliamentary Christmas recess beginning this week it seems an appropriate occasion to take stock and examine the performance of the new backbenchers and what they have been up to including what takes place inside the "Blue Chip" and "Guy Fawkes" dining clubs.

More than 80 new Tories were elected at the general election this year and by general agreement, and to some surprise, the majority are in the centre or to the left of Government policy. There is probably a sound basic reason for this. Many of them entered the political nursery in the middle-Sixties when Mr Heath was Leader of the party and cut their teeth, either as party hackroom boys, or members of the Young Conservatives and the Federation of Conservative Students on Heathite policies.

This is not to say they are anti-Thatcher—the loyalty to a party leader inside the Conservative Party knows no bounds—but on some issues, and it is a matter for individuals, there is going to come a time when they will pose counter arguments.

It has happened already over immigration, when originally the promised abstentions were as high as nearly 40, not all of them, admittedly, being new members. As one of the new intake described it: "When the whip heard about it, they originally operation was amazing. You could almost hear the crunch of heavy boots on gravel. I never expected to experience such an arm-twisting exercise."

The number was whittled down to 19, though Mr John Watson, the new MP for Skipton, a



Mr Christopher Patten and Mr William Waldegrave; high-flyers.



backbench operator par excellence, calculates 31. He has never checked his figures with the whips for the simple reason that he has not exactly struck up a rapport with the party's business managers since he came to Parliament. A former chairman of the Conservative Parliamentary candidates association, and a board member of John Waddington, the games manufacturer, Mr Watson, as independent minded as any of the new intake, has committed the ultimate sin of compiling his own lists. There is a joke among his colleagues that for this reason he was put on the Scottish Grand Committee, which, for an English MP, is the equivalent of being sent to Siberia.

The candidates association, or more accurately, the parliamentary list of prospective candidates compiled by the Conservative Central Office, is another clue to understanding the make-up of the new intake. Many of the liberal-minded MPs, particularly on social issues, were selected when Sir William Elliott was vice-chairman of the party and in charge of selection.

While a person in that position cannot thrust a candidate upon a constituency party, he can block an aspirant by refusing to put him on the list. Two who suffered that fate because of their right-wing views under Sir William, though they were subsequently successful and are part of the new intake, are John

Carlisle (Luton West) and Harvey Proctor (Bassidon). Sir William used to keep in the bottom drawer of his desk in Central Office a private list of those who he thought were potential high-flyers provided they could get seats. Among them were William Waldegrave (Bristol West), a former member of the Downing Street "Think Tank" and later personal assistant to Mr Heath when Prime Minister, and Christopher Patten (Bath), a former personal assistant to Lord Carrington when he was party chairman and later a much-praised head of the party's research department.

They are old friends and both are founder members of the "Blue Chip" Club which dines every other Thursday night at Westminster home of new

Ward MP Tristan Garg-Jones, a former personal assistant to Lord Thorneycroft, the present party chairman. There are 12 of them in all, and they get the name "blue chip" because of the intellectual quality that sits around the table.

They are not rebels but they would find it hard to deny that some of their conversation borders on heresy when they discuss economic problems facing the Government. Some of them like Christopher Patten, believe that an incomes policy will have to become part of the economic strategy, whereas his namesake John Patten (Oxford) is thinking along lines of import controls and protectionism.

Their arguments, and they can be heard outside the group in private discussions, is that monetarist policies are not sufficient in themselves to solve the economic problems. The group's aim is to prevent the Government, to mix metaphors, getting on transatlantic and ending up with a bunker mentality. The protectionists, who in some ways could be one step further in advance of incomes policy adherents, believe that selective import controls may become essential in order to halt the degeneration of British industry.

The aim of the group has yet invited guests, but they are considering it as a development for the new year, and one of the names being suggested, a plague on the free market economy, is Mr Wayne Godley, director of the Department of Applied Economics at Cambridge University, who has been preaching protectionism throughout most of the Seventies. The aim is not to be converted but to explore and examine his economic theories.

John Watson, inevitably, is the indirect link between the "Blue Chip" and the "Guy Fawkes" dining club, which also meets fortnightly but in the Commons. He is a member of both. They were given the title because their first meeting occurred on November 5 and occurred on the Government's immigration White Paper.

One of the members is Stephen Dorrell (Leicester North), an enthusiastic, energetic but not humorless, energetic newcomer who earned himself a reputation by his speech during the immigration debate.

All of them have been active since they entered Parliament, and their one great achievement being the coup they scored over the right when it came to electing officers to the Tory backbench committees. Their only failure was on the finance and economic committee, which came first in the round of elections. "We learnt from that," said one of them, "and we have learnt a damn sight more since the immigration vote. We must know we must stick together the next time we run up against the whips."

When the next time occurs no one yet knows, but it could come early in the New Year.

Michael Hatfield

Bernard Levin

## Laying a smokescreen over the whole truth

To my astonishment and dismay, I find myself obliged to return to the subject of smoking. The astonishment is occasioned by the fact that I thought I had said all I wished to say on the subject last week, and the dismay springs from contemplating the further avalanche of letters I am inevitably going to receive as soon as this appears. For Professor Fletcher's reply (Letters, Thursday, December 13) to my comments on the radio programme in which he and I had participated is inexcusable, and his misstatements must be corrected.

The programme referred to was *You, the Jury*; the motion was "That smoking should be banned in public places"; the proposer was Mr Clement Freud, MP. The motion was opposed by Miss Annan Stasinopoulos, who called me a witness to speak on the liberal aspects of the argument. Mr Freud called Professor Fletcher as one of his two witnesses (the other was Lord Soper), and the professor put the motion in a manner which reinforced my view that those who wish to stop other people smoking frequently behave in a fanatical manner. The motion of the debate was that from an initial vote (ie, before the arguments and witnesses had been heard) of 45 for banning, 33 against, and 22 abstaining, our side, which opposed such a ban, won by 50 to 40 with one abstention. Of this encouraging result I wrote:

"The banners' case was nailed into its coffin when their doctor (Professor Fletcher) asked what should happen to those who broke the no-smoking ordinance and then either could not or would not pay the resultant fine... said 'Oh they must be sent to prison'... That is what I mean by fanaticism, and who shall say that a less strong word would be more appropriate?"

This exact and accurate description of what happened displeased Professor Fletcher, who replied, as I say, in a letter to this paper. In this he said (I have left out nothing germane to my argument) that my column was "full of... wild deception" and wrote on:

"...three minutes before the debate started Mr Levin insisted on making it totalitarian. For the sake of the programme we agreed, a few minutes later, calls Stasinopoulos asked me how a total ban on smoking could be enforced; I had to reply that it must be by fines, and, of

course, if these fines were not paid, imprisonment would be the ultimate sanction for contempt of court... The fanaticism of which Mr Levin accuses me was due solely to his own insistence that his side could 'only' win this debate by making it ridiculous. Despite this, half of the audience voted in favour of this extreme motion."

Now for the truth. The motion was, as I say, "That smoking should be banned in public places". The wording was drawn up, and agreed by both sides, weeks in advance. It is, of course, quite ambiguous, and of course once such a motion is agreed upon and published as the subject of the forthcoming debate, it obviously cannot be changed, certainly not at the instance of one side. Professor Fletcher claims, however, very carefully to give no details, that our side somehow achieved a change in the motion, either in its wording or its meaning, though as I say the wording could not be changed and the sole meaning is clear to all. But his care in avoiding details is understandable, for from first to last, no variation in the wording or its meaning was in any way so much as hinted at by Miss Stasinopoulos or myself, and Professor Fletcher's claims to the contrary ("... Mr Levin insisted on making it totalitarian...") are his own insistence that his side could only win the debate by making it ridiculous ("... as well, incidentally, as defamatory").

What, then, did happen? I must warn you that the answer, though perfectly true, is almost incredible. The truth is that it was the professor's side that tried to change the meaning of the motion. It is the custom on *You, the Jury*, for the two sides to meet

in separate rooms, to devise strategy and agree on the presentation of their case. While this was going on, the producers appeared in our room to inform us that the other side wanted to rewrite the terms of the debate, so that "banned" would be allowed to mean, in their mouths, "not banned"; it was proposed, if you please, that they should argue not for the ban on smoking in public places but that the motion specified and that they had accepted and agreed upon, but for something like segregated sections for smokers and non-smokers, this being, of course, our side's argument.

Naturally, both Miss Stasinopoulos and I rejected so preposterous a last-minute attempt to change the main meaning of a motion long since accepted by all, and to usurp the moderator's antiseptic extreme one. And quite contrary to Professor Fletcher's claim that "For the sake of the programme" his side had agreed to our proposed change, they went on arguing for more than half an hour in their attempt to avoid going ahead on the motion they were committed to proposing. And, similarly, Professor Fletcher's claim about my "insistence" that my side could only win the debate by making it ridiculous is the exact opposite of the truth; it was his side that had realized that they could only win the debate by twisting the plain meaning of the terms of the motion to be debated in effect, they had realized that they could not hope to win if they were to propose what they believed and had committed themselves to arguing (I must however accept Lord Soper from the change of trying to change the terms of the debate I criticized him harshly for a different aspect of his participation in the programme, but I have no evidence that he was

party to this business; certainly when the two sides met before the programme started, and the French, supported by Professor Fletcher, went off to try to maintain that the motion should not be held to mean what it did mean, Lord Soper took no part in the negotiation.)

And I am afraid that that is not all. Professor Fletcher's account of his answer to the question about what should happen to those who would not, or couldn't, pay fines "for smoking is of the same nature as his accusations. He now claims that he "had to reply that it must be by fines and, of course, if these fines were not paid, imprisonment would be the ultimate sanction for contempt of court". This, too, is quite contrary to the facts. He did not refer to an "ultimate sanction"; he did not mention "contempt of court"; he did not quote my answer in any way. He first said (I have checked the transcript) that offenders should be fined, and then, to the supplementary question about non-payers, said "If they don't pay, they go to prison. There was an audible murmur of revulsion among the audience, faced at last with what fanaticism among anti-smokers actually means; that is why I said that it was the professor's reply on this point that had helped ruin his side's case."

I have returned to this subject today, and gone into such detail, for several reasons. First, to vindicate myself from charges of which I was not guilty, but of which my accuser was. Second, to remind anyone who needs reminding of just how far even the most upright members of the medical profession can go in pursuing their ends. (For it must be noted that Professor Fletcher is a physician of genuine eminence and unquestioned reputation; that, indeed, he is why his name was so shocking. Third, and most important, it reinforces my view that the anti-smoking campaign is short through, for reasons I can hardly guess at, with an unattractive and indeed disturbing fanaticism. I hope that Professor Fletcher's horror, as a doctor, at the ravages that smoking causes to those who contract the smoking-related diseases has led him into just such a fanatical, and perhaps, as a doctor, of him today makes any of the other campaigners stop and wonder whether they, too, have succumbed to the same temptation, it will have served yet another purpose, and that, this, perhaps, the most important of all.

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## In a tight situation will the book business break out of its hard times?

After a few false alarms in the mid-1970s, Britain's publishers, whose turnover last year exceeded £520m, are facing real difficulties.

"It's the tightest situation since the war," said Mr Tim Hinch, chief executive of the Longman publishing group. "For the first time we have a combination of inflation with a strengthening pound. The exchange rate has ceased to act as a corrective mechanism. If we move prices in line with inflation, we cease to be competitive overseas." With exports accounting for 41 per cent of the industry's turnover, the loss of overseas markets could be disastrous for some firms.

The toughest competition is coming, inevitably, from the United States: the pound has gone up, making British imports dearer; the dollar down,

making United States exports cheaper; and inflation is slightly lower in the United States.

"Precisely the same product is being offered by the Americans, often at worryingly lower prices," said Mr Charles Clark, managing director of the Hutchinson publishing group and chairman of the new Book Marketing Council. "And they have an enormously much larger home market over which to spread their costs."

It is symptomatic that, discounting inflation, exports of British books fell by just over 3 per cent in the second quarter of this year against the same period last year. Exports to the United States and Canada were some 15 per cent down in real terms. The African market, important for educational books, was also weak.

The fall in the value of the dollar has drawn attention to one of the major components of higher production costs in the United Kingdom, namely printing. Typically the cost of printing represents 20 to 25 per cent of the retail price of a book (the bookseller usually keeping a further 30 per cent). Since the last wage increase in April, printing costs have gone up by some 20 per cent, according to Mr Clive Bradley, chief executive of the Publishers' Association.

Several leading publishers (of bound or "cased" books, as opposed to paperbacks) assured me that British printers were "in danger of pricing themselves out of the market". Even Mr Stuart Henderson, commercial director of the British Printing Industries Federation, conceded: "The present inflation rate is clearly driving us away from our West European and American competition."

It is not that the big British book-publishing firms are over-manned or technologically backward. Some are among the most modern in the world. But for certain types of long-run monochrome work, the Americans are now able to quote prices up to 30 per cent cheaper. Thanks, it seems, to a combination of currency factors, higher productivity, economies of scale, and

### Belt-tightening should produce a more efficient industry

cheaper (because local) paper. Italy and Spain remain competitive for colour work.

Big British firms strong on school and academic books, like Longman and Macmillan, have always retained a strong base in the Far East, where lower wage rates and good productivity are attractive, along with proximity to important markets. Macmillan's own publishing firm in Hong Kong, India, and the negatives of the text for printing in Hong Kong or England. Mr John Peacock, the group's production director, reckons the proportion of their books printed overseas has increased from 20 to 40 per cent in the past five years.

Increasingly, he says, books with a strong American base and being entirely printed in the United States, with a proportion of the print run

bought for the United Kingdom. Even some books with no United States market are being printed there.

One large firm in trouble, Collins, is also unable for lack of a large, modern printing works in Glasgow, used for stationery and diaries as well as books, bibles and dictionaries. "We just couldn't have done our own printing of a new English dictionary at an economic price (£7.95) if we had done it in the United Kingdom," says Mr Mark Collins, managing director of Collins's book publishing company, now separated from the manufacturing side. Instead it was printed in the United States.

In September Collins reported a colossal pre-tax loss, turning a £1,100,000 pre-tax profit in the first half of last year into a loss of £200,000.

Corrective action includes the laying off of 600 workers in Glasgow but the primary aim is a reduction of book stocks; the sale of Collins's American company; the possible sale and leaseback of some freehold buildings; and the loss through natural wastage of some 30 editorial jobs, mainly in Glasgow.

"When we get through this long, dark tunnel of difficulties, I am very optimistic about our publishing," said Mr Ian Collins, managing director of the book side. "Across the board it is very healthy."

Down in Clapham, Lord Weidenfeld, chairman of Weidenfeld and Nicolson, has taken some pre-emptive action. "Our country is doing extremely well, but only because it has monitored some of the adverse results of international trading, and has taken the necessary steps," he insisted. A policy of eliminating some low-profit international co-productions (usually expensive illustrated books) and concentrating on books with a strong home European base, or on high-prices books with profit margins "resistant to fluctuation", has meant parting with three editors, one editorial assistant and three distribution staff.

Weidenfeld's law is that in a minor boom, book sales suffer, because people are spending money on dearer luxuries. In a

minor slump, they console themselves with a book. The result is a vicious circle, says Mr Hutchinson's Charles Clark put it: "You can't say the general public isn't buying if you get the book right."

There are, inevitably, many countries above the sea, and the Government's public expenditure cuts, on top of those of the Labour Government, on the sale of school and academic books, including exports, these actions are one of the reasons why the Publishers' Association is helping to keep overheads down. Book clubs are once again flourishing. W. H. Smith and Double-deckers' Book Club Association have won a new £1 million investment, and a new club, Nationwide, backed by Collins, Hutchinson, Secker and Warburg and Bonners of Sweden, starts up on January 1. The new Point Bookings Company, too, is expected to improve the quality and quantity of book retailers.

Finally, the belt-tightening and self-censorship induced by the present difficult times should produce a shrewder, more efficient industry. It is even possible that the rationalization of new titles, tightening up to 40,000 this year, will be pruned back. The cushion of the falling pound has been removed. As at West Germany, the discipline of a rising currency will force publishers to for many others.

Roger Berthoud

## LAHORE DIARY

### Breaking with the Raj

Punjab, the heartland of Pakistan, is perhaps the region of the sub-continent where the traditions of the British Raj still linger most subtly. Many of them stem directly from the British Army; the paradox is that the military regime of President Zia is now ending several of the best of them. Take for instance drink.

You do not have to wait to meet General Zia's "strictly Islamic" Pakistan. It takes over at Lahore airport a three-judge bench, including Mr Javed Iqbal, son of Pakistan's most famous poet, and set up as part of the Islamization drive. If the judges choose to go so far, the effects could be immense for they are supposed to pronounce on whether a Pakistani law is in accordance with the injunctions of Shariah law of the Muslims.

Brought by a Karachi parsee, the petition is to come before the Shariah bench, a three-judge bench, including Mr Javed Iqbal, son of Pakistan's most famous poet, and set up as part of the Islamization drive. If the judges choose to go so far, the effects could be immense for they are supposed to pronounce on whether a Pakistani law is in accordance with the injunctions of Shariah law of the Muslims.

The Shariah bench represents however a grafting onto one of the most enduring legacies of British rule, the Punjab High

turned as I left Pakistan from that airport.

The army taught me that a man should not part lightly with his bottle so I suggested that I kept the bottle, it being entered as unopened in my passport. It could be checked as intact when I left from Karachi. A blank refusal. I was told my bottle would be flown to Karachi in time for my departure.

The customs men may not know it, but there is a petition before Lahore's High Court asking the whole issue of whether non-Muslims drinking should be repressed by the state in the name of the Islamization of Pakistan.

Brought by a Karachi parsee, the petition is to come before the Shariah bench, a three-judge bench, including Mr Javed Iqbal, son of Pakistan's most famous poet, and set up as part of the Islamization drive. If the judges choose to go so far, the effects could be immense for they are supposed to pronounce on whether a Pakistani law is in accordance with the injunctions of Shariah law of the Muslims.

The Shariah bench represents however a grafting onto one of the most enduring legacies of British rule, the Punjab High



General Zia: a view to create an Islamic state.

Court. Ever since Mr Bhutto's sides manipulated the 1977 general election it has been at the centre of whatever political controversy was allowed in the country.

Mr Bhutto's police had just massacred innocent demonstrators against his rigged election who had taken shelter in the court precincts when I first arrived in Pakistan. Soon he was himself on trial accused of an assassination bid against an opponent. The court, and

many of the barristers practicing there, were then violently anti-Bhutto and after its appeal to the Supreme Court and General Zia's refusal to accord clemency, Pakistan's former premier was hanged last April.

Now, however, the court has been indefinitely by General Zia, this strange late nineteenth century edifice serves as sole ventriloquist of citizens' feelings, provided of course one can afford the lawyer's fees. Typical among Pakistanis, the feelings go in utterly opposing directions.

Involving the sovereignty of Allah, a retired Supreme Court judge has petitioned the Shariah Bench to throw out all western democratic forms, Parliament, elections and political parties as "un-Islamic".

Simply any law or provision of Pakistan's 1973 constitution if inconsistent with the holy Koran and the Sunnah (the prophet's practices) was liable to be ineffective automatically, he told the judges. Moreover, since the Supreme Court had given President Zia law-making power, he could make all the new laws required in consonance with Islam.

Yet with Pakistan's constitution under arrest, it was the Lahore High Court bar association a fortnight back which alone spoke up, calling on General Zia to hold national elections before the end of next March, suspend all martial law, and return the army to the barracks.

The lawyers are clearly interested in more than upholding the traditions of Anglo-Saxon law. With the Shariah Bench they see the thin edge of the wedge, and the Mullahs and Maulvis taking over their livelihood.

But there is another powerful professional group in Lahore, currently upset by the military. In the city which in British days boasted elegant shops worthy of the "Fairs of the East", the trading community is up in arms at the draconian controls imposed

since General Zia took power. The country has been hit by a severe economic crisis, and the military has been imposing a strict discipline on the economy, with the result that many businesses have been forced to close down.

Most interestingly, they are hating back by questioning General Zia's Islamic credentials. Saudi Arabia is the country General Zia is now most anxious to please, and he is in a hurry to manifest a social disgrace and are administered with the Koran under the scrutiny of the Shariah Bench.

"Don't you think the British flag is a disgrace?" one asked me, "come from another age, when our soldiers were still learning from the British Army?"

Richard Wigg

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# NORWAY

days of uncertainty about its ability to continue in office, the minority Norwegian Labour Government has survived a crucial vote on its Bill to limit pay rises. The decision, by a margin of one vote, was taken yesterday. Norway's prices freeze ends on New Year's Day, Denis Taylor writes.

It is a long time in Norwegian politics. Seven years ago, the minority Labour Government of Odvar Nordli looked in a pessimistic mood. Opposition to curb pay rises was 15-month prices and freeze ends on December 31. Most of the areas of the government had been over the parliamentary committee, one issue suddenly capable of unseating the government. This was the legislation to put unions in the Norwegian in a privileged position.

But public and Parliamentary attitudes to the nuclear modernization programme are another matter. There seems to be a split in the Norwegian mind, which appears prepared to accept membership of a military alliance based on the nuclear deterrent and at the same time to reject nuclear weapons as well. Nuclear weapons have stirred passions in recent weeks, more than at any time for almost 20 years. The Government of Mr Odvar Nordli sought to make NATO modernization conditional on an offer to the Russians of substantial negotiations to reduce the level of armaments in Europe. But this was not enough to carry Labour wholeheartedly with the Prime Minister. An important party gathering at Lillehammer, showed up the support for new theatre nuclear forces (TNF) deployed in Europe. After a session of the Parliamentary Labour Group two weeks ago, it was suddenly announced that Mr Nordli was flying to Washington and that Mr Røff Sten, Minister of Commerce and party chairman, was going to Moscow. This travelling balancing act was certainly dramatic by Norwegian standards. It

was unprecedented unilaterally to dispatch a minister to Moscow at such a delicate stage in NATO negotiations. Mr Karl Willoch, leader of the Conservatives, the largest opposition party, with 41 seats compared with Labour's 76, rejected the Prime Minister's argument that the Government was not obliged to discuss party matters with other parties or other NATO governments. The Conservative leader called Mr Nordli's justification of the Moscow visit alarming. Mr Willoch said the Prime Minister was confusing party and state in a disquieting way and added that Mr Sten's journey gave the Russians another chance to put pressure on Norway.

There is a strong bipartisan tradition in Norwegian foreign policy, and Mr Willoch accused the Prime Minister of 'breaching convention by failing to talk to the Opposition. But this was a time when the Prime Minister was more concerned with fissures appearing inside his own party than with bipartisanship. A previous debate over nuclear policy had split Labour and produced a breakaway socialist party in 1961. The battle over whether Norway should join the EEC, a move narrowly rejected in the 1972 referendum, also created enormous stresses for Labour. The journeys to Washington and Moscow were not, therefore, purely theatrical. Some observers put the opposition to nuclear modernization at about 30 out of the 76 Labour MPs. Mr Nordli could only make sure of getting convincing Parliamentary support by concentrating on pushing for early East-West negotiations on arms control. Norwegian political arithmetic is fluid. Parliamentary voting patterns depend on issues far more than they do in Britain. This remains the Norwegian way, even when there are political swings in the electorate. The Conservatives made striking gains in the last general election in 1977. Parliamentarians have a fixed four-year term, with local government elections serving as mid-term popularity tests. After the adverse results of the local elections three months ago, Mr Nordli sought to refurbish his administration's image and performance with a sweeping Cabinet reshuffle. As an illustration of the kind of opposition to be found on an important issue, the Centre Party, with 12 seats in the Storting, is concerned with the damage oil development north of latitude 62° north might do to the fishing grounds. The Christian Democrats (with 22 representatives) opposed Labour over the granting of free abortions within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, and differ on Church and educational issues. The Left Socialists disagree with the Government on defence and energy policies. Although there is no pact, these two left-wing votes in effect give Labour a majority over all other parties. Government economic policies, notably the prices and wages freeze, have received wide support. The freeze, imposed 15 months ago, is scheduled to end on New Year's Eve. Such factors as rising import costs mean that there has been a low level of inflation. The consumer price index shows a rate of 4.8 per cent for the 12 months ending in July. The Government's new strategy is to seek to limit pay increases throughout the economy by law to the level of those scheduled to be negotiated by the spring between the employers' organization and the Norwegian TUC, the LO, with the Government acting as a third party. Such a law is unprecedented in a country where half the labour force is outside the LO. The aim is to stop a wages explosion after January 1. The LO does not look likely to press for wages much out of line with the rate of inflation. Norwegian workers appear to have made the connection between wage levels and domestic and export prices. But the central economic question is whether Norway has learnt that it cannot escape restraint imposed by the world economy. When the other industrialized economies went into recession in 1974, Norway decided to stimulate growth and maintain the highest possible employment by borrowing heavily abroad against its oil. The average Norwegian annual rate of unemployment since the war has been about 1 per cent. With unions negotiating separately, wages rose by up to 20 per cent and inflation reached 11.7 per cent. Exports lost their competitive edge between 1974 and 1977, but some ground has been recovered during the freeze. The level of indebtedness incurred during the push for growth remains high. At the end of September official statistics put it at \$20,000m. Norway now faces a greater variety of international issues than ever before. It has to decide how to handle its oil and gas wealth. It has to deal with Soviet maritime ambitions in the Barents Sea, which could also have interesting petroleum deposits. It has a delicate role to play in Svalbard (Spitzbergen), where the Russians, who form a bigger community than the Norwegians, have been testing the sovereign state, Norway. The Norwegians might well have agreed to Russian helicopters and an airstrip on Svalbard had they been asked, but the point is that the Norwegians were not asked. Both superpowers now see Svalbard as strategically important. If oil is taken into account, Britain is Norway's largest trading partner, but Oslo is cultivating a closer relationship with the EEC in general. As well as doing between 70 and 80 per cent of its trade with the Community, the Norwegians talk to Brussels about an increasing variety of questions, including trade, energy, industrial, transport and fishery policies. Oil has also made other countries keener to develop contacts with Norway. The Norwegians were on the brink of joining the European Monetary System (EMS), but drew back when it became clear that Britain and Sweden were not taking the plunge. The proposed deal between the Norwegian Government and the Swedish Volvo company came to nothing last January when the Volvo shareholders vetoed the scheme. This saved the Oslo Government from the possibility of an embarrassing vote in the Storting. But the failure of this project does not necessarily mean the end of all prospects of a marriage between Norwegian oil and Swedish technology. Indeed, economic logic points towards such a partnership.



photograph: Keith Bell

Michael Frenchman describes the oil scene

## Mood of realism and cautious optimism

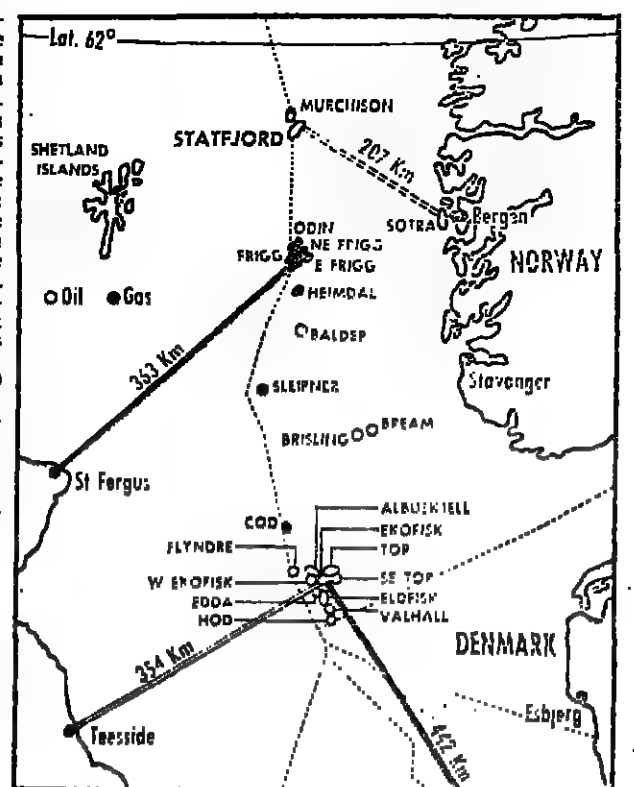
In the past five years Norway has undergone a change from professional optimism to almost cynical pessimism where oil is concerned. Today a mood of realism and practicality prevails coupled with cautious optimism for the 1980s. The lessons have been hard: rapid inflation, one of the largest foreign debt ratios in the world, and one of the highest unit labour costs. But now the scene is changing and the Government does seem to be getting its oil sums correct.

Production is about 40 million tonnes a year and the Royal Norwegian Petroleum Directorate expects this to rise to 50 million tonnes of oil equivalent (oil and gas) by the end of next year, which will be one of the most crucial in the country's oil development programme.

The Storting (Parliament) has already put a ceiling of 30 million tonnes on oil production, approximately 10 times the country's needs, in order to prevent unnecessary inflation and to satisfy the demands of domestic and international financial house-keeping. But Mr Arve Johnsen, managing director of Statoil (the national oil agency), and the Labour party see a need to accelerate the oil development programme in the next decade. The strong environmental lobby, however, wants a much reduced output.

Mr Johnsen believes that the 30 million tonnes mark will be reached by the 1990s as the result of encouraging new finds made this summer. One of them, the gas field in the so-called block 31/2 made by the major partners, Statoil and Shell, may be the largest gas strike in the North Sea. Estimates of the reserves in this new field range from three to 10 times that of the giant Frigg field. Gas has been found at a deep level, 325 metres, which will cause some production difficulties.

The field has yet to be proved conclusively, and test drilling—which was to have been finished by now—will not take place until next year. Production will not begin until the late 1980s. There is wide interest in this block, as those surrounding it have yet to be allocated. Until now all gas and oil finds have been below latitude 62° and the Storting is to debate the final go-ahead for drilling north of this latitude next year. Although there are likely to be a number of political skirmishes, it is doubtful if there will be any serious delay. The Fishermen's Association, which has held the key to development in the north, has been promised a compensation fund of just over £3m for any difficulties or inconvenience which may be caused by drilling in the northern regions next summer when the fifth round of concessions is started.



This will take place in three main areas. Two are in the Troms region off the northernmost town of Hammerfest and contain 20 blocks; and the third, which has six blocks, is over the fishing ground known as the Heltank, which lies approximately off the shores of central Norway. Twenty-seven bids have been received and the awards are expected any time now. Only Norwegian companies will be allowed to operate in these areas which means Statoil, Norsk Hydro and Saga International companies which are submitting tenders will act as technical partners. Statoil is expected to have at least 50 per cent of all the blocks.

When operations start in these northern latitudes it will mean a slight increase in the overall oil activity and possibly more employment in some areas. Altogether some 32,000 people are employed in the industry. Trying to get the right economic formula between what is needed and what is desirable has been a constant problem as has been the relationship between oil development, industrial output and employment. Norway has tried more recently to stabilize its production with an estimated investment of peak far oil in 1981. Up to the middle of this year 42,000m kroner had been invested in permanent installations and pipelines and another 6,000m kroner in exploration. Excluding northern operations, development investment is expected to level off to under 10m kroner annually.

Proved reserves at present prices are said to be worth about 1,000,000m kroner and revenues to the state for 1979-81 are estimated at 22,000m kroner, some 3,000m kroner more than was estimated last spring. The question of taxes and revenue continued on next page

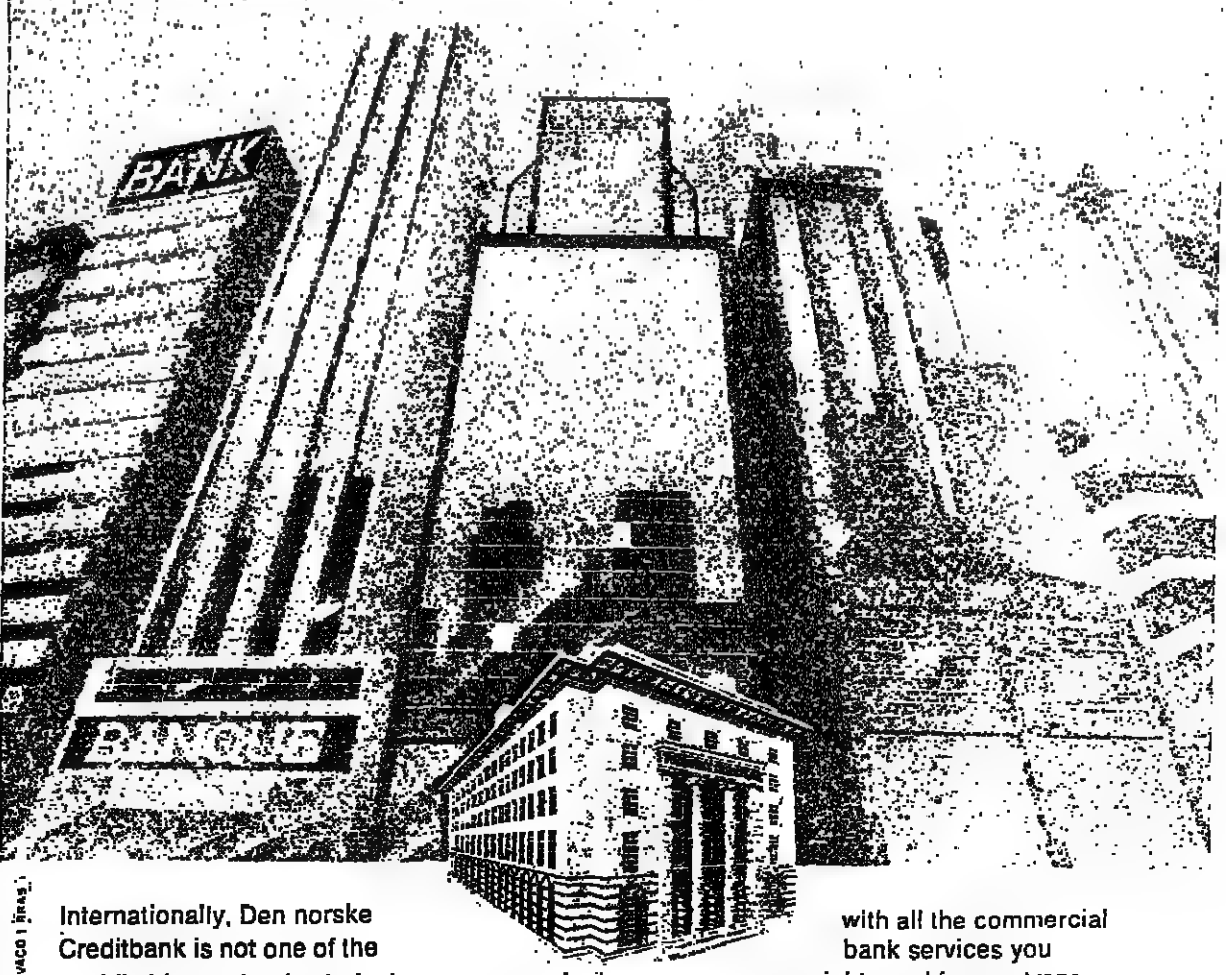


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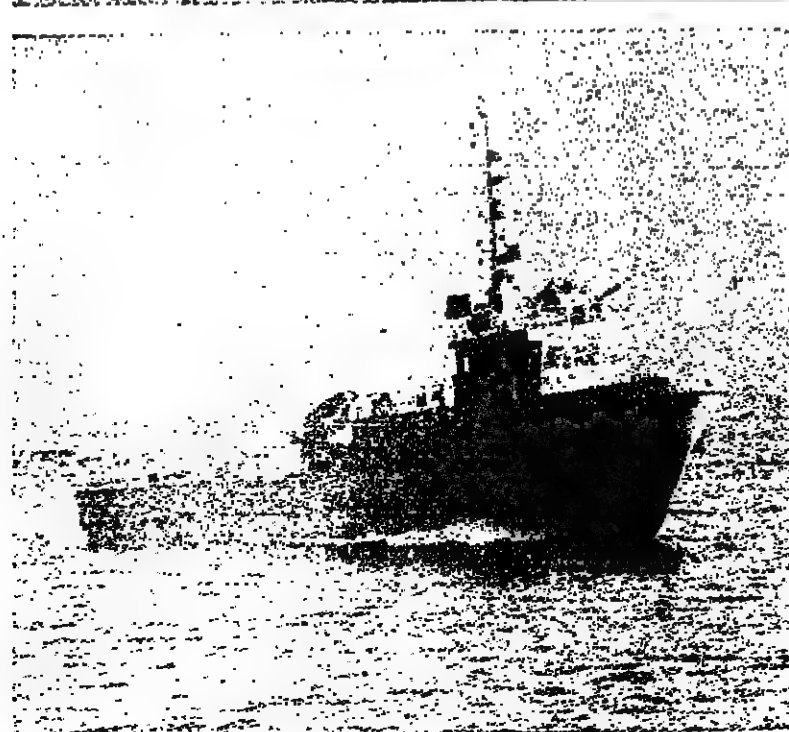
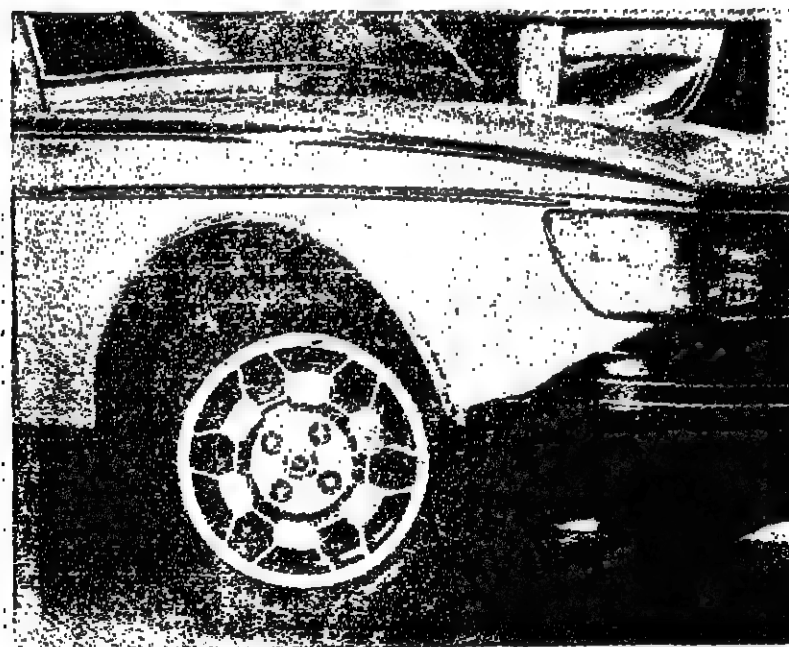
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The Times Special Report on Finland will be published on February 27th 1980.

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## NORWAY

Industrial growth in many sectors is bringing the economy out of the doldrums and reflects a continuing upswing but employment remains a problem

## A gleam from black gold

The past year has seen some dramatic changes in the political and economic fortunes of the five Nordic countries. There have been elections in three. In the case of Denmark and Norway, there have been clashes between the minority Liberal and Labour governments respectively and the trade unions. Both these countries have severe unemployment problems. But Norway, unlike the unfortunate Danes, has the "black gold" of the North Sea to fall back on enough for many a rainy day if the economic planners get their policies wrong.

However, the past 12 months have seen a sharp improvement in Norway which has had a growth rate of over 4 per cent for the same as the 1967-74 average.

The 15-month price freeze, which ends on December 31, and several small devaluations of the kroner, have all helped to make Norwegian exports a little more competitive on world markets, but the exceptionally high unit costs are still a problem. In spite of this and the poor domestic demand for goods, there appears to be a general upswing in process, certainly for the short term.

Increasing oil revenues, estimated at 22,000m kroner this year, a 10 per cent increase in exports, an improvement in the balance of payments deficit for the first seven months from 7,400m kroner last year to 4,100m kroner, and a substantial fall in the balance of payments, a minor winter of discontent have contributed to the

improved overall position. Inflation appears to be holding at a fairly constant figure of about 4.7 per cent, one of the best in the Nordic region. The recent budget introduced by Mr Ulf Sand, chief economist of the LO (equivalent to the TUC), who replaced Dr Per Kleppe as Minister of Finance, calls for a 3.3 per cent rise in expenditure next year. An increase of about 1 per cent in the GDP is forecast. There will be a total increase in government spending of 18 per cent to 9,000m kroner of which oil money will account for half the sum.

If world oil prices and revenues continue to rise, there is likely to be a surplus in the balance of payments, current account position. With continued improvement

in many areas likely in 1980, real disposable income may rise from 4 per cent to 6 per cent but this might also be the inflationary spiral as it did some five years ago when false optimism over oil riches set in. This will make it essential for the Government to maintain as full an employment level as possible. Already, approximately one control measure will be in force by the end of the year.

As part of its general strategy, the Government is already insisting that companies bidding for new oil concessions must also submit on-shore job creation programmes (see oil story) in the form of new factories or joint ventures with other national companies. With two top trade union

ists in the new Cabinet—Mr Lars Skytten, also rise from 4 per cent to 6 per cent but this might also be the inflationary spiral as it did some five years ago when false optimism over oil riches set in. This will make it essential for the Government to maintain as full an employment level as possible. Already, approximately one control measure will be in force by the end of the year.

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## Exports improving

The Norwegian export industry has improved its profitability during 1979, assisted by a wage freeze begun in September 1978 and also as a result of the devaluations in 1977 and 1978. The stock of export goods which increased more than normally in 1975-77 because of the Government's counter-cyclical policy, has been reduced by more than 40 per cent, and expectations are that it will remain low for the next three months.

Production for export (including petroleum) increased by 11.5 per cent for January-September. Seasonally adjusted indices for July-September, excluding petroleum, show an increase in industrial production for export of 3 per cent more than the previous quarter.

Export prices increased by 11 per cent more during the first six months of 1979 than during the corresponding period in 1978, while import prices rose by 7 per cent, thus improving the terms of trade by 4 per cent on traditional goods.

The average wage for men and women in the manufacturing industries increased by 4.9 per cent in the first six months in relation to the corresponding period in 1978, but costs to the industry increased by 7.4 per cent because of new regulations for sickness benefits and so on, together with a productivity increase of 5.2 per cent. This resulted in an increase in

wage costs. However, it is expected that the final result for the year may be somewhat lower. If this is so, Norway's competitive ability will be improved by 9 to 10 per cent in 1979.

Production for consumption showed a modest increase of 1.7 per cent in the January-September period. Most of the growth occurred in the third quarter and there are indications that these growth tendencies are continuing into the fourth quarter. Retail trade volume was nearly 2 per cent less in the January-July period with furniture and appliances proving sluggish, and car demands increasing steeply towards the end of the period.

Production of investment goods has declined by 1 per cent in the January to September period. This must be seen in conjunction with the low level of investments planned by industry in 1979. Performed investments were less than expected to August and a moderate growth is expected to take place during the latter part of 1979.

The metal mining industry is benefiting from the higher international prices and production volume is up 10 per cent on the January to September period compared to 1978. A substantial part of the increase came in the third quarter, including oil and gas, the total mining index shows a 20 per cent increase, with signs of improvement for the remainder of 1979, due especially to

larger output from the Ekofisk fields. Manufacturing of consumer products is stagnant, showing a small decline in textiles and a minor increase in foods for the nine-month period up to the end of September compared with 1978. There are, however, signs of accelerated production in the third quarter.

Meat production increased by nearly 15 per cent in volume for the nine months up to the end of September compared with 1978. Steel and ferro-alloys increased by 20 per cent, and non-ferrous metals by nearly 8 per cent. Total incoming orders gained pleasingly in the third quarter, and the order reserve is 9 per cent higher than at the end of the third quarter in 1978.

Production of machinery increased by nearly 5 per cent over 1978 for the first nine months of 1979 and shows signs of acceleration towards the end of the period. Incoming orders in the third quarter were up 33 per cent on 1978 although the third quarter is usually sluggish. The order reserve for this industry are up by 5 per cent on 1978 and we must look back to 1975 to find a higher order backlog at the end of the third quarter.

Svein Erling Haugen

editor, Petroleum Oil Power

## Boost for pulp

On June 28 a new company was formed in Norway which will have the effect of centralising further the activities of the country's hard-pressed pulp and paper industry, and it is hoped to boost its position.

Norsk Virkesimport, known as Norwood, is a joint venture created by the industry to direct all imports of pulpwood to member companies of the Norwegian Pulp and Paper Association (NPPA) in southern and eastern Norway. Its establishment underlines two basic facts about the industry's home-grown raw material is no longer available in sufficient quantities to maintain the industry at its present level and full use is essential in the fight to improve profitability.

Cooperation is now the key word in the Norwegian industry as companies face a slowing of growth in the European market and greater competition from the North Americans.

Norway has imported large quantities of pulpwood for a number of years and in the past decade imports have amounted to about two million cubic metres a year, worth some 400m kroner (about £37m). Exports of pulp and paper have played an important role in Norway's economy since the start of the century but this has declined in more recent years. During the 1950s, the value of pulp and

paper exports amounted to 20 per cent to 25 per cent of the nation's total foreign sales, but today, mainly the result of new export trades and the exploitation of North Sea oil, the figure has dropped to only 6 per cent.

Total production of pulp and board in 1978 was 1,250,000 tonnes and shipments of market pulp reached about 500,000 tonnes.

Last year proved to be particularly damaging. Survey of 22 Norwegian wood processing companies reported a 95 per cent of turnover there was a total deficit of the year of 107.8m kroner (£10m).

This year there has been a marked improvement. Total exports of paper on board rose by 24 per cent in tonnage and 28 per cent in value in the first quarter of 1979 compared with year earlier.

It is on newspaper that the industry is pinning much of its hope for the future. A few months ago four of the leading paper makers—Nordiska Skogindustrier, Follum Fabrikker, and Saugbrugsforeningen joined forces with the state to build a new 600m Krone (£55,500,000) plant which, it is hoped, will turn Norway from an importer of bleached kraft pulp into a significant exporter from 1980.

Edward Townsend

## Mood of realism and cautious optimism

continued from previous page

In particular "royalty oil" which is paid by the operating companies to the state in place of cash, is now the subject of much controversy between the Labour party and the opposition groups. Difficulties like this and constantly varying estimates as to revenues and production make the struggle to maintain employment and create new jobs an unenviable task for any government. Because of this it was conditional in the fourth round of concessions last April that all companies receiving licences should guarantee to establish some kind of shore-based operation which would create new jobs. This "job creation" proviso applied to eight awards, and the Government hopes that joint ventures and co-operation agreements between oil companies and industry will become an established pattern for the future.

Some of the agreements include a joint company formed between Amoco Chemicals and forum which will produce and market chemicals for use in the oil industry itself. There is a major co-operation plan with the West German group Deminor, which is looking at an iron-sponge processing plant at Emden for which Norway would supply the raw material. Another agreement with ASV and Veba will examine the feasibility of producing a plant in Norway for supplying light metals and plastics for the building, motor and packaging industries. Superior Oil Norge and a number of Norwegian industrial companies are planning a 45m kroner copper and iron ore processing plant. How successful projects of this kind will be remains to be seen, but there is no doubt that the abortive deal with the Swedish giant Volvo a year ago has provided a new stimulus to the oil industry link.

The most successful field so far is the Ekofisk complex which is being developed in four stages. Production started in 1971, and two stages have been completed. Last summer production amounted to more than half a million barrels of oil a day. The oil is pumped 35km to Teesside, and gas from the field goes 442km to Emden in West Germany. Production has been halted on at least three occasions by accidents, the most important being the blow-out on the Bravo platform in April, 1977.

It is this last event that has given the Norwegian environmentalists such a field day in their fight to prevent further oil exploration and to see a series of highly expensive anti-pollution measures. In reality, pollution from the Bravo accident was fairly small, and damage to the environment minimal because of fortunate weather conditions.

Gas also goes from the British sector of the Frigg field to St Fergus, Skye, one of the oil fields in the Norwegian sector of the field. The notorious Statfjord field which straddles the median line between the two countries is being developed in two major stages. Britain and Norway have now concluded a new operating agreement whereby Norway has 58.8 per cent of the field reserves and Britain 11.1 per cent. This agreement has platform known as the Con-1, 1,600m kroner. It is expected to be completed and in operation during 1982.

according to new data gathered on the extent of the field as development takes place.

The first-stage platform, the Statfjord A, and the single-point mooring buoy are in place, and production is expected to reach at least 250,000 barrels a day. A second platform, the B, has been the subject of much debate because of the environmental protection measures needed and in-creased production costs. After numerous joint talks between Britain and Norway it was decided to go ahead with an integrated concrete cost of the massive deck is expected to be 781,000 to be completed and in operation during 1982.

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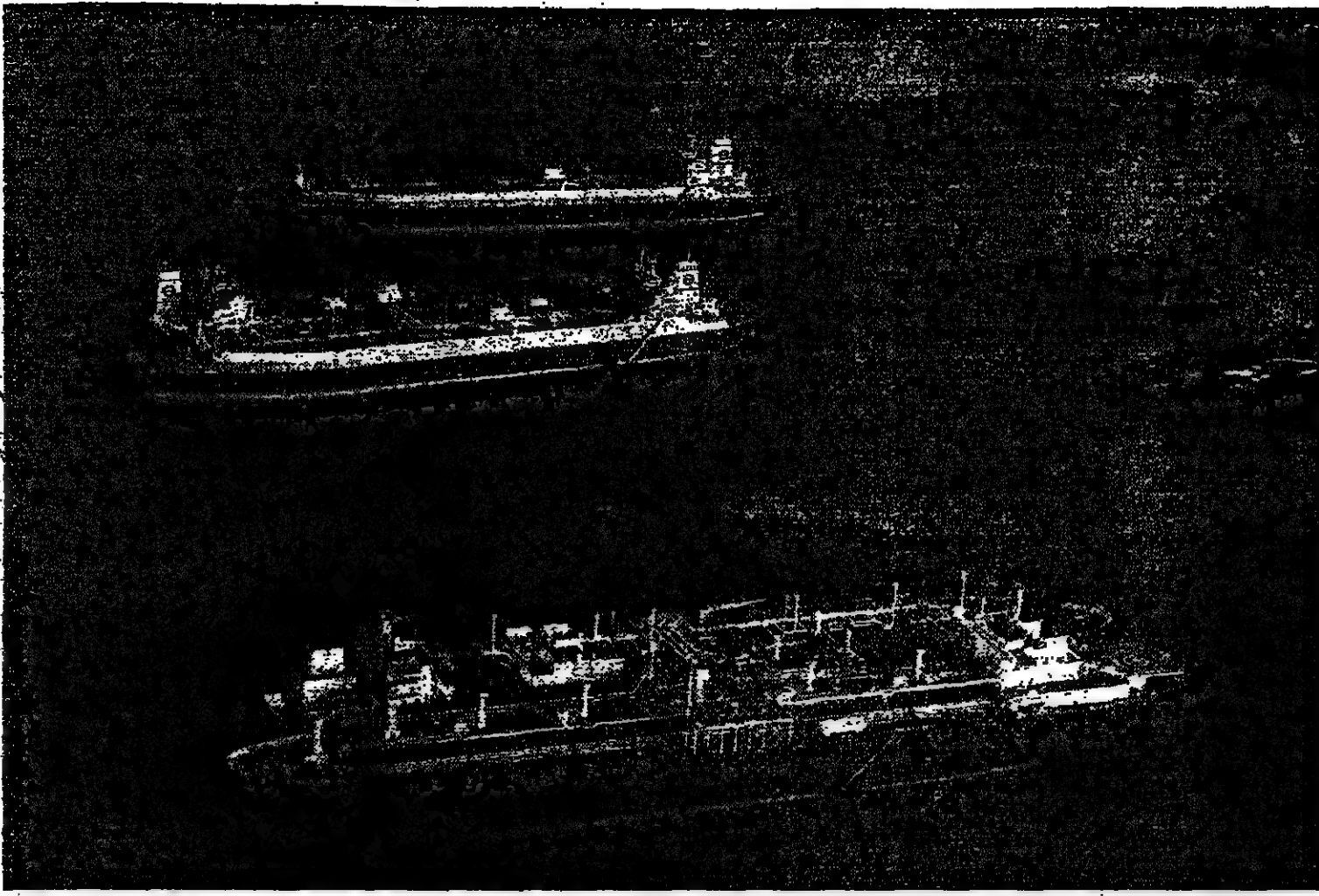
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Mining help



Michael Frenchman looks at how a typical traditional herring fishing port is dragging itself into the oil age

## Town that refuses to lie down



and three quarters of exploration and development of the oil and gas resources on the Norwegian side of the North Sea. Stavanger, lies in a typical traditional herring fishing port, and where almost every other company which has the remotest connection with the oil business also has an office or representative, is now booming at the same time. The new White Paper on drilling north of latitude 62 has suggested alternative oil supply ports, should be established or developed elsewhere. Some companies, such as Amoco and Gulf, have already been told to establish their base in Stavanger. For some of these exploration activities as well as on other sites away from the area closest to the Stavanger and Bergen.

What makes Haugesund interesting is that it is a town that refuses to lie down, and be bypassed by the oil business. It feels that more government direction should have been applied to the oil companies to move away from Stavanger much earlier. More than 100,000 people live in the county of Rogaland, of which Haugesund is the natural centre. It has a population of about 28,000 and its main livelihood derived from fishing, has been from the nine main shipyards in the area, three of which are located in the city itself.

But shipbuilding activity fell drastically last year and the largest yard in the city,

Haugesund Mekaniske Verksted, had to reduce its labour force to 1,000. The yard has now won a contract for a 300m kroner coast guard vessel as well as a small tanker conversion which will enable laid-off workers to return to the yard with the possibility of new men being taken on besides.

This old-established yard recently opened one of the largest dry docks in Europe, certainly in the North Sea area. It has a capacity for vessels of up to 150,000 tons. Its overall length is 283 metres by 46 metres wide with a maximum draught capacity of 8.5 metres. This dock has proved invaluable since its completion a year

ago and has been in constant demand. The dock and harbour are only just over two miles from the open sea, a substantial advantage over Stavanger and Bergen.

One of the leaders in planning the future development of the city has been the harbour-master who saw himself as a latter day Pindar of Haugesund leading a procession of slow-moving oil rigs and platforms to the port for servicing and repairs, besides all the other business that goes with the oil activity. Norwegians are notoriously slow in their approach

but Mr Odd Michael Odland, and his assistant, Mr Trygve Bjernerem, are two exceptions. The harbour-master convinced the town authorities that it had to speed money to attract more oil business and it has now almost completed a £2.3m offshore deepwater base on a small island linked to the city by a narrow causeway. This has an area of 25,000 sq metres and offers a deep-sea quay of 160 metres with a depth of 50ft, and longer quay of 250 metres with a depth of 22ft.

The quaysides are extremely strong, enabling large prefabricated modules of a type used on oil-drilling and production platforms to be landed. The town hopes that the new facilities will attract widespread interest. Already a leading drilling contractor and supplier is expected to establish its base in the port.

Perhaps one of Mr Odland's most enterprising moves since he came to the city some six years ago, was to turn the decline in world shipping to his advantage. South of the Garpekkjer, the old part of the port, is the historically interesting bay of Bovangen. This small, almost landlocked bay with a sandy bottom is overlooked by an ancient church, St Olav's, founded by King Haakon in about 1250. Surrounding the church are many old ship burials from the Viking and previous eras. The Romans also came there.

Today, only a hundred metres or so from the church, huge gas tankers of up to 250,000 tons lie at anchor, laid up because of the decline in demand. These vessels need safe harbours, protected from the wind, because when in ballast their towering topsides present a tremendous area of steel which acts as a "sail" when exposed to the wind. Anchorage such as Bovangen are hard to find.

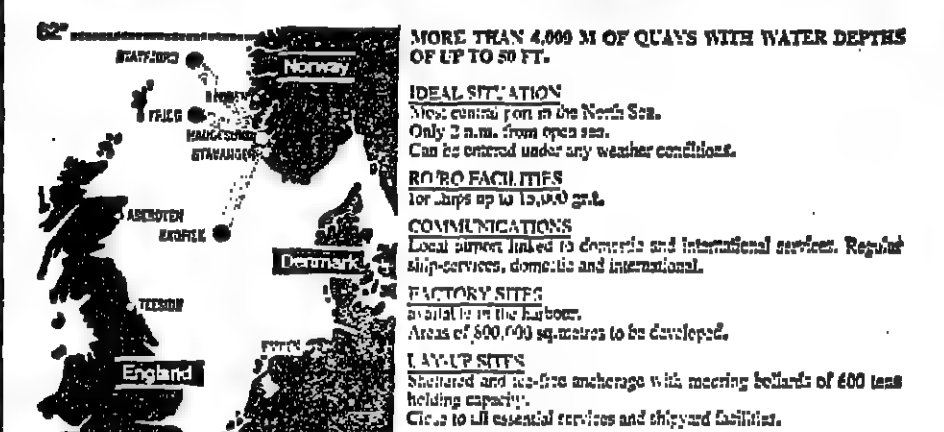
Mr Odland, who has now left his job with the port authority and is working for the Norwegian central port directorate, travelled to many countries, from Algeria to Indonesia, to persuade ship owners to bring their vessels to Haugesund for lay-up where they bring in up to £1m a year in mooring fees.

At one time there were five of the world's largest lng carriers moored together representing the greatest insured value of shipping at any one place.

Today there is only one ship and that came straight from the maker's yard and has never been in commission. It is hoped that five more lng carriers might be joining it from the Far East in the not too distant future.

Although there are still some employment difficulties in Haugesund there is a will to survive and the town is more liberal in its attitude to the outside world than some of the "valley" towns. Its forward-looking attitude together with the about-turn in the overall economy of the country will no doubt ensure its survival for many years to come.

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Peter Hill, Industrial Editor, describes how shipbuilding is getting back afloat, and visits a place where West lives with East

## Ebb tide begins to turn

There are signs that at last ebb tide which Norway's shipbuilding industry has been suffering from is beginning to turn. But it is some time yet before a flooding favourably for it.

The industries have felt full force of the international recession in shipping, consequently in the level shipbuilding orders and Government (as in so many other maritime countries) has been forced to take an assortment of measures to ensure that way's maritime trade is not knowledge are not overwhelmed.

As Nils Werring Jr., president of the Norwegian Shipbuilders' Association, observed at the organization's annual meeting earlier this year, 1979 has undoubtedly been a year of progress for Norwegian shipowners — in fact contrast to the previous five years.

In the period to mid-October gross freight income for the Norwegian foreign fleet had risen by 3,000m kroner to more than 21,000m kroner while the number of ships laid up because of lack of work has been reduced to a mere nine vessels.

But in the previous lean years the Norwegian flag fleet has been considerably reduced through sales to operators outside Norway. With the high relative costs of operation, Norwegian shipping companies were obliged to cut back their tonnage. A total of 200 ships were sold from the Norwegian flag fleet in 1978 and in the first 10 months of this year a further 110 vessels were sold. The clear implication of that policy is that more than 300 ships could be operated more efficiently and more cheaply at lower cost levels.

By the middle of 1979 the Norwegian fleet amounted to 348 vessels, totalling 38,300,000 tons and all the signs are that with a stabil-

ization of the shipping market, the tendency to dispose of ships has considerably reduced and the fleet is likely to remain close to that level.

The better conditions experienced by Norway's shipbuilding community have enhanced the prospects for the country's shipbuilding industry, which has been forced to cut back substantially on its levels of activity because of the depressed state of the world shipbuilding market. Four years ago, Norway's shipyards produced more than a million tons of new merchant ships. But last year deliveries fell to only 300,000 tons gross and over the same period 4,500 jobs disappeared from the industry.

Earlier attempts by the Government to stimulate new orders from domestic shipbuilding companies produced only a trickle of orders and further measures were introduced to promote orders. The measures included a credit scheme for

domestic owners which provided 80 per cent credit over 12 years with a three-year moratorium for repayments in the first three years; subsidised interest rates for export orders to developing countries; a 10 per cent subsidy on new buildings for domestic owners equivalent to 450m kroner for the two-year period 1978-79; and government support for restructuring of the industry.

Since then, however, the domestic owner subsidy has been lifted from 10 per cent to 20 per cent of contract price, while further funds have been allocated for export orders to developing countries and the amount of government aid available for restructuring of shipbuilding activities has been increased.

In the first nine months of this year the shipping industry placed a worth of 2,000m kroner with Norwegian yards and foreign yards contracts were signed for orders totalling more than one million tons.

## Mining on world's roof helps diplomacy

Even, through the clear air, the SAS jet from London lines up its approach to Svalbard International Airport. There, down to the lights visible from a power station at Barentsburg supplying power to the Russian settlement, Svalbard is not quite as straightforward as it may seem. Time for one last drink before the plane touches down at the Tarmac. The miners, to make up the bulk of the passengers on board, bundle their unopened miniature to their bags and think about the shift which they will be working within hours, setting down the dirt and the danger of the snow shafts driven into the mountains which rise up sharply on each side of the dilly around Longyearbyen, the capital of Svalbard. The work in the coal mines is hard, but it is worth it, especially for the men from the northern regions of the Norwegian mainland, who make up most of the mining community. Coal has been mined in this desolate but beautiful outpost of civilization in the

high arctic since the beginning of this century. Before the coal deposits were exploited by British, Norwegian, Dutch, German and Russian interests, men had gone to Svalbard—Spitsbergen as it was then known—to hunt for polar bears, reindeer, foxes and walrus. Russian hunters spent long, dark winters there for a century or more from the early years of the eighteenth century.

It is a strange place, where the West lives cheek by jowl with the East, but contact between the Norwegian settlement in Longyearbyen and the Russian communities in Barentsburg and Pyramiden is both difficult and irregular.

It was the coal deposits which prompted the negotiations for an international treaty to determine who would be responsible for administration of this bleak group of islands. In July 1925 sovereignty was accorded to Norway, with 41 other nations allowed rights of access to explore and exploit the island's mineral reserves. The construction of fortifications, or use for military purposes, remain forbidden.

The strategic importance of the archipelago has long been recognized by both Norway and the Soviet Union. They are the only countries to have exercised their rights under the terms of the treaty to establish permanent communities there. For the Soviet Navy the freedom to pass between the south coast of Svalbard and the North Cape of Norway from its bases around Murmansk into the waters of the North Atlantic is of enormous strategic importance, even today.

Norway, as a member of Nato and the sovereign power, is obliged to ensure that its presence there is recognized and understood by the Soviet Union. Russian concern about the security of the sea route manifested itself as long ago as 1944 when the Soviet Union sought unsuccessfully to create a Norwegian-Soviet condominium in Spitsbergen. Since then the Soviet Union has pursued a somewhat cavalier attitude in its activities and policies in Svalbard. In the past two to three years that has helped the Norwegian administrators to

produce a more positive and vigorous policy.

In order to emphasize the continuing presence of Norway and its wish to prevent further Soviet inroads, the Norwegian Government has become much more forceful in the implementation of its policy. For this reason the promotion of exploration for coal and other minerals plays an important part in the delicate business of diplomacy. The main aims of this are to preserve the unique features of the archipelago and reduce tension.

Earlier this year Statoil, Norway's state oil company, began surveys in conjunction with oil exploration. Although the chances of discoveries of commercial scale are considered to be slim (previous searches have failed to find any significant oil or gas reserves) the possibility cannot be ruled out totally. Similarly, the islands are thought to contain much greater coal reserves than previously expected. Total coal reserves, according to Store Norske Spitsbergen Kulkompani, which works the mines, could be at least 200 million tons in 3,000 square miles.

## TWICE THE SIZE OF ENGLAND

in area

## HALF THE SIZE OF LONDON

in population

## -THAT'S NORWAY

This paradox has left its mark on Norwegian industry. It is an industry based on natural resources, and a limited domestic market has resulted in heavy emphasis being placed on the expansion and development of the export market. Kvaerner Group, the largest of the mechanical industry groups in Norway, is a typical example. Equipment for the fishing, woodworking, refrigerating and mining industry, hydro electrical turbines, offshore structures and equipment, and shipbuilding are all principal Kvaerner Products. Approximately 40 per cent of our production is exported. In recent years the financial results of the group has been among the best in Norwegian industry.

The best known Kvaerner product internationally is probably the manufacture and delivery of gas tankers for transportation of natural gas.

Last year, however the Kvaerner Group was awarded a contract worth 2.2 bill. Norw. Kroner (approx. £220 mill.) for the fabrication and assembly of a steel deck as well as the supply and installation of shaft equipment for the Statfjord B platform in the North Sea.

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## NORWAY

Annelise Hopson looks at both sides of the argument  
between industrialists and conservationists

## Safeguarding the environment provokes debate

Oil pollution safeguards, acid rain, and general protection of the environment are important political issues which are costing the country millions of kroner. Under an industrial waste and protection scheme introduced in the mid-1970s, the total capital investment in measures to safeguard the environment.

This programme, which is scheduled to be completed by 1983, has led to a great deal of adverse comment from the private sector and from industrial organisations. They claim that these excessive measures coupled with high production costs, are making Norwegian industrial goods uncompetitive on the world market.

Important new factors in the environmental debate are oil exploration and drilling north of 62°N and the controversial question of hydroelectric developments in some heavy spots in the northernmost parts of the country, some of which are important reindeer grazing grounds.

Whichever way you look at it, pollution is a sensitive question. One of the big issues is the effect of acid rain which is slowly ruining the soil. This has little calcium to absorb the acid, and damage is being caused to fresh water streams and fishing.

The acid comes mainly from the heavy industries in central Europe and Britain. A conference was held in Telemark in 1976 about the problems, in which 20 countries—among them Britain and six inter-governmental organisations—participated.

The objective of the conference was primarily to discuss international research into the effect of precipitation and the deposition of sulphur compounds on forest and fresh water ecosystems. The effects of sulphur dioxide on human health were also discussed.

The issue remains that the increasing acidity of the "sour downpour" has had a striking effect on chemical and biological conditions in fresh-water systems, particularly in the southern part of Norway. This part of the country consists mainly of subterranean bedrock that is highly resistant to chemical weathering.

Air pollution is a major problem in Norway. This led to a Norwegian initiative some years ago to promote international cooperation to solve it. The Economic Commission for Europe convention signed by 32 states in Geneva last month is regarded as an important step forward. The convention provides a fundamental basis for further cooperation on a number of issues jointly to combat air pollution. Mr. Rolf Hansen, Minister of the Environment, says:

"From statements made by various countries at the conference there is every reason to assume that practical and concrete work programmes will be submitted when the parties meet early next year to discuss the follow-up."

Pollution is not only a problem as far as air precipitation or oil is concerned. Like many other countries Norway is trying to protect its natural environment. Although the country still gets almost 100 per cent of its electricity from hydroelectric sources these still pollute streams and rivers, even though hydroelectric power is one of the cleanest sources of energy.

Last year the Storting (Parliament) debated the question of whether to allow two hydroelectric power plants to be constructed which would have affected the river systems on the Hardangervidda mountain plateau. This is a particularly beautiful area with two waterfalls and many reindeer.

Recently the parliamentary report concerning the Hardangervidda was discussed in the Storting. The Government's proposal to establish a national park and a landscape reserve area on the Hardangervidda was approved. The issue was submitted to the Storting because of the special interest in, and scope of, the proposal.

Last year the Storting voted by 50 against 35 votes to construct a new hydroelectric power plant at the Alta Canyon in Finnmark, Norway's northernmost county. Last October the Government decided to postpone this highly controversial hydro-power development. The decision was made after the Government had received urgent appeals from the opposition parties in the Storting and also because of clashes of interest between the developers and the conservationists had become more and more marked.

The climax of the conflict was reached in October when seven Lapps (the original inhabitants of Finnmark, which is a very important reindeer grazing district to them) put up a tent outside the Storting and started a hunger strike in protest against the development work. At about the same time the Prime Minister received 10,700 telegrams from all parts of the country.

Most of them had similar texts, supporting the claims of the Lapps but not explicitly against the development plan for the Alta river. The present status of the Alta issue is that the Government in the near future will submit a report to the Storting on what has happened on the implementation of the decision made by the Storting to postpone the development of the Alta river. It may be expected that the review of this report by the Storting will be a new debate also about the realities of the issue itself, the Minister of the Environment says.

However, a spokesman from the Norwegian Federation of Industry said: "We must have hydroelectric power plants but that is not enough in the long run. Within 10 years there ought to be alternative sources of energy because hydro power will no longer be sufficient. The present situation of uncertainty about nuclear power plants is intolerable. The Government has decided to deep-freeze the debate and the mass media are backing this policy. The industrial sector believes that nuclear power is to be preferred to coal or oil and the question ought not to be debated soon."

The minority Government, however, has stated that during the 1978-81 period no planning or building of nuclear power plants is envisaged.



Another problem facing the Government is whether to start drilling for oil north of the 62nd Parallel. This question involves pollution and energy as well as fishery.

After strong criticism from both the Opposition and the Minister of the Environment the question of drilling for oil north of the 62nd Parallel has evoked considerable discussion.

The Minister of the Environment says: "There has been no disagreement within the Government on exploratory drilling north of the 62nd Parallel. There has, however, been a discussion related to the question of

when an acceptable level of risk, including adequate oil pollution control, emergency arrangements, will have been established."

In the Norwegian Government's report to the Storting concerning exploratory drilling, definite demands were required to be met by the Storting before exploratory drilling could be started. The oil pollution control emergency arrangements will be discussed again in a new report from the Government relating to the implementation of the preparations concerning exploratory drilling. The report will be submitted in the near future and industry

## Viking exhibition for London

Norway has one of the richest Viking heritages in Scandinavia and nowhere can this be seen more clearly than at the Viking Ship Museum at Bygdøy just outside the capital Oslo. Several ancient ships, the longest 70ft long, have been fully restored and are on display together with many other relics from the Viking era.

Apart from the items themselves the simple and practical method of showing the vessels on their iron stands which can be looked at from small viewing platforms gives an impression of grandeur and scale. Looking at the blackened timbers of the ships against the stark white of the hulls with their brightly lit alcoves in which are shown many objects from the Vikings' daily life, it is hard to believe that journeys of thousands of miles were made in these frail ships.

The largest ship is the Gokstad which is 66ft long by 17ft wide and is the best preserved. Its simple lines are the epitome of superb and aesthetically pleasing naval architecture. It is a practical landing-craft type of vessel compared to the much more ornate and slightly smaller Oseberg craft which has highly decorated and symbolic sternposts. Carved friezes run from the stern to the top of the posts. These represent fabulous beasts from pre-Viking days. It is one of the finest examples of Viking craftsmanship.

Many items showing the extent of Viking artistic skill from the ships' jewelry, weapons, and household goods are to be seen in London next year when one of the most comprehensive exhibitions about the Vikings will open at the British Museum on February 14. It is an unusual exhibition because it is the first time that so many items will be seen together. This perhaps helps to emphasise the widespread nature of the voyages that the Viking traders made in their longships.

They left their mark in the form of commercial trading

A silver crucifix from Trondheim. A northern image of Christ, elaborately dressed and with a moustache, is bound to the cross with thongs.

posts and farms from the Caspian Sea to Ireland, Greenland and North America. Many of the exhibits are coming from museums and collections scattered over just as wide a range. Some of the wooden items are the large and fragile to leave their displays in the Scandinavian capitals.

However, many of the richer trappings of Viking life will be brought to London where they will be on show until July 20. The exhibition will then go to New York. Unfortunately it will not be seen in Scandinavia and many special arrangements are being made in the form of charter flights and tours to enable Scandinavians to come to London.

The exhibition is being arranged and sponsored by Times Newspapers Limited, SAS Scandinavian Airlines and the Cultural Fund of the Nordic Council.

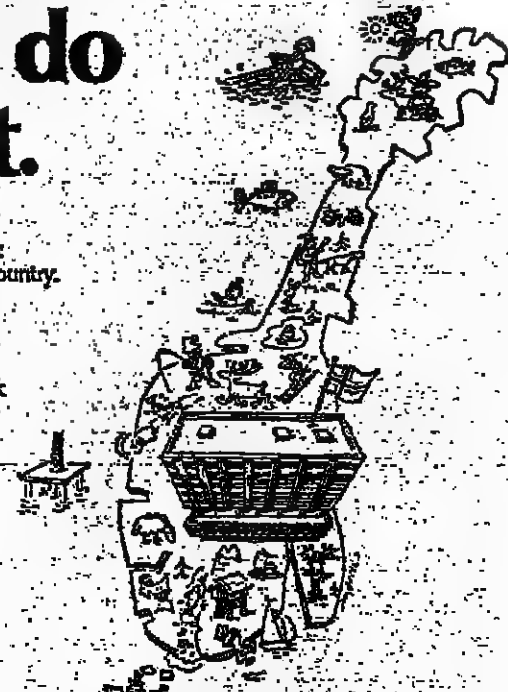
Michael Frenchman

## The only thing you need to know about Norway is "Christiania Bank" - they'll do the rest.

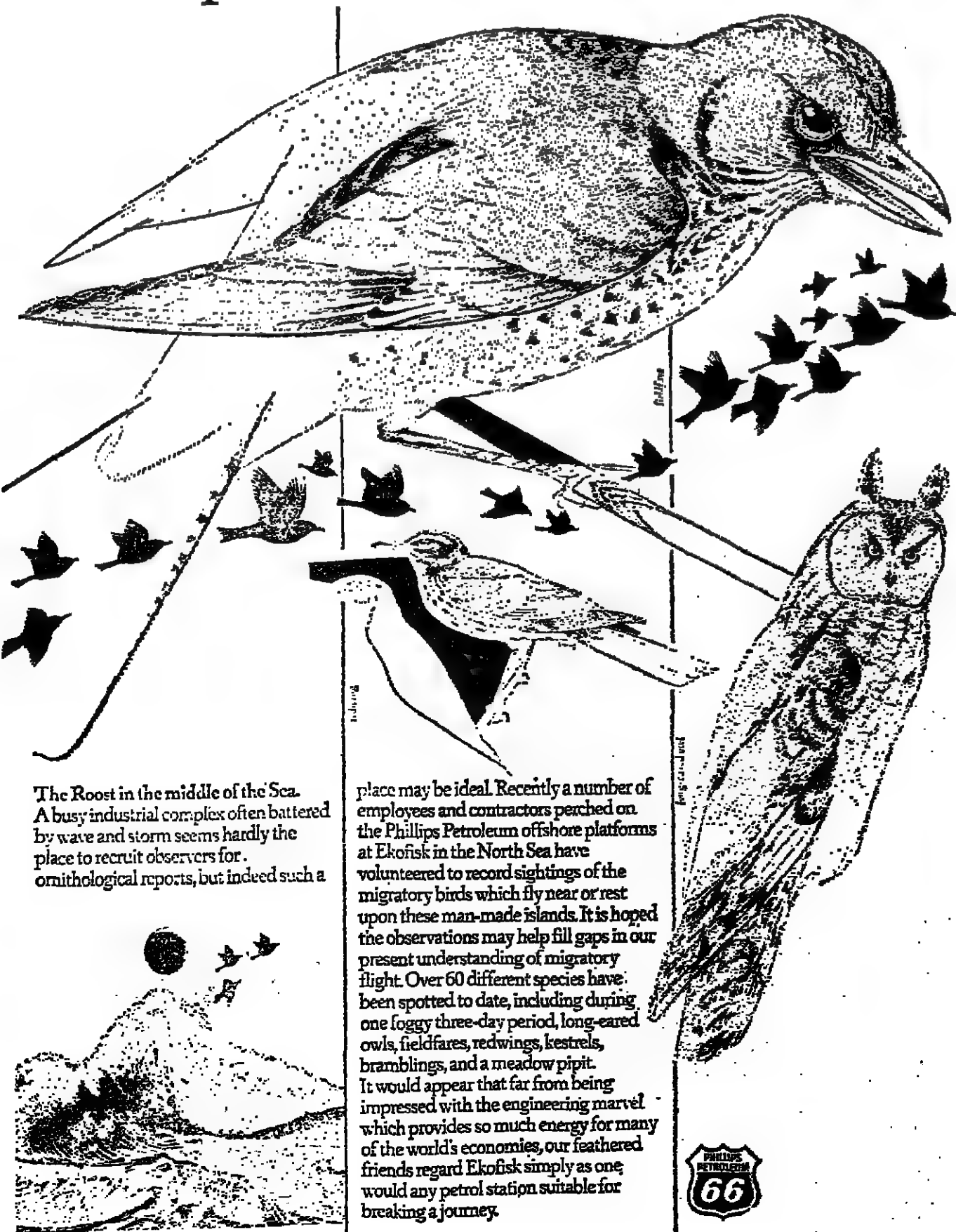
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## A birdwatcher's view of the world of Phillips Petroleum.



The Roost in the middle of the Sea. A busy industrial complex often battered by wave and storm seems hardly the place to recruit observers for ornithological reports, but indeed such a

place may be ideal. Recently a number of employees and contractors perched on the Phillips Petroleum offshore platforms at Ekofisk in the North Sea have volunteered to record sightings of the migratory birds which fly near or rest upon these man-made islands. It is hoped the observations may help fill gaps in our present understanding of migratory flight. Over 60 different species have been spotted to date, including during one foggy three-day period, long-eared owls, fieldfares, redwings, kestrels, bramblings, and a meadow pipit. It would appear that far from being impressed with the engineering marvel which provides so much energy for many of the world's economies, our feathered friends regard Ekofisk simply as one would any petrol station suitable for breaking a journey.







## THE RISKS OF NUCLEAR POWER

reful justification is needed a decision to go out and buy product which recently came at a devastating half price. The Government's announcement that it will allow the first of a new type of nuclear power station to be a pressurized water reactor (PWR) of the kind, though not same design, that burnt out Three Mile Island is a decisive step. Britain's twenty years trying to develop a nuclear industry entirely on our own. Since British industry is widely acknowledged to have a more serious attitude to the problems safety than the American, it is natural that chauvinistic feelings should be touched with justifiable alarm.

At this stage, however, it is not indeed almost inevitable that we should acquire the technology of the PWR. But given vary so greatly over the last few years that the case will be made for almost every one of the arguments. There are those who doubt whether need a large addition to our generating capacity in the next few years. Many who accept need insist that the dangers nuclear power as such are so great that it cannot be an acceptable means of filling the gap, as we favour nuclear power as that the PWR is not safe at all.

This official policy for the stage of nuclear development has remained in the doldrums, public anxieties have not had much to feed on, but feelings in Britain run less high than they tend to in neighbouring countries, in (perhaps because) of the fact that we are more used to being served by nuclear installations than most. Yesterday's announcement may provide a more passionate debate. The questions raised are of such importance to the future of our society that they deserve full rehearsal.

The first stage of the argument is that the PWR is not safe.

ment is widely accepted. It rests on the concept of the "energy gap". Energy demand is expected to rise steadily to the end of the century, while the price of imported oil will double in real terms (leaving aside the possibility that some political cataclysm may cut it off altogether). North Sea oil and gas will begin to run out after 1990. Speculative new sources of energy, such as solar power, windmills, or nuclear fusion, cannot become a major factor before the end of the century at best. Conservation can and must make a contribution, but even the 20 per cent saving in efficiency assumed by official forecasts still leaves a wide gap to fill. The controversially large investment in coal mining will not be sufficient to fill the gap by itself. Still larger investment in mining, or fuel imports, or extra nuclear capacity will be required.

Barring accidents, nuclear power would be the cheapest of these, and home-mined coal the most expensive. The latter would also carry heavy environmental costs. Both have the advantage of being relatively free from the political uncertainties over supply that may gather round imported coal or gas (uranium, the raw material for nuclear power, is also an imported fuel, but its sources are claimed to be relatively reliable). Given the risk of profound social upheaval if a drastic shortfall in generating capacity ever occurred, the uncertainties suggest that it would be wise to pursue the nuclear option as well as the other alternatives. In this matter, as in any other, we have to keep ourselves fully informed.

The question of type of reactor is not a difficult one even after Three Mile Island. The second home-grown generation of gas-cooled reactors have run into serious problems at the building stage. The method cannot be relied on to provide the capacity when it would be

needed. For the stability of the industry, it is necessary to have a steady prospect of orders ahead. It is only prudent to seek experience now in the technology of the type of reactor which, in spite of one major disaster, is still the most widespread and successful in the world. The British PWR will be a freshly designed machine, subjected to rigorous British safety regulations, as well as to public inquiry and parliamentary approval. It will resemble Three Mile Island in its working principle, but not its details. If the problems with the AGR are solved, it will still be possible to return to that method later. Once again, the important thing is to keep ourselves covered.

But while we are covered, we should use the time to carry on a perpetual security of the relative risks of nuclear power and the alternatives. No type of reactor is entirely immune from the danger of major accident. The risks are far from being fully understood—there are still puzzles surrounding the Pennsylvania incident. The remote danger of a catastrophe that is difficult to visualize—with perhaps thousands of people affected with radiation sickness and large tracts of land inaccessible for decades—must be set against the much more certain but more familiar environmental and human costs of the alternatives. Every year accidents in British coal mines cause scores of deaths and many hundreds of serious injuries. What rate of type of accidents is society prepared to absorb to safeguard its energy sources? There are also dangers in the security problems of ferrying radioactive material about the country—though these are problems that are already with us. It would be foolish complacency to say that the nuclear option is safe, or even the safest, among other options. But it can be said that not to pursue it energetically with the other choices seems far more risky than carrying on.

## SOUTHERN RHODESIA'S SEVEN WEEKS

now is business. The sign ceremony at Lancaster House on 10th December is the start of the hazardous stage in Southern Rhodesia in a state of war to civil peace. The present level of hostilities on the British timetable of week to calling ceasefire and back to becoming effective. A hundred more lives to be lost and while British presence on a short timetable psychologically right, few see the shooting to end and rely in that period.

Mr Mugabe's forebodings that will take ten weeks or more to his units operating and them moving towards their main areas suggests the loss of his high command's will rather than their remoteness. Quite apart from more sophisticated communications, bush telegraph is very effective. The "boys in the bush" in close contact with tribes and villagers. Most of the war are only too anxious for shooting to stop and the constant pressure of a pointed gun to ease. The word will out, and when it has gone out, orders that emanate from Patriotic Front's representatives on the ceasefire Committee will have to be acknowledged and obeyed—or defied. It is the task of the monitoring to help the Zanu and Zupla leaders personally to tell the Zanu and Zupla cadres to obey. They may be glad to.

inevitably arms will be hidden and many guerrillas (especially those who have not fired a shot) will not assemble but will carry on indistinguishably as election agents. The same will be true, the other way round, with Bishop Muzorewa and Mr Sithole's semi-armed auxiliaries. The main problem for the monitoring force is to keep them unarmed. It is useless to suppose the election will be anything but rough; the presence of other critical decisions in Africa are clear. But, as was implicitly accepted at Lusaka, and no doubt in the United Nations, this is to be an acceptable blend of "free and fair" elections in Africa.

To project such realities on to the map of Rhodesia is to define the smallness of the monitoring force in terms of even the absolute minimum required of it. Twelve hundred men in a country twice the size of Britain, ignorant of the African vernaculars and unfamiliar with African customs—probably also with problems from ingrained white attitudes—and working in the worst season for travel is almost heroically few. It is in the highest tradition of the army. It should be said that it is, as events develop, Lord Soames and General Acland feel imminent success is jeopardized for want of some hundreds more, the British public should accept the need.

Not only have the assembly areas to be monitored, but the disengagement of the Salisbury

regulars; and also the daily law and order operations of the British South Africa Police. These must be seen to be under surveillance if suspicion is to be met on the other side and mischievous making scotched. The monitors have to generate confidence out of distrust. They have two advantages however. It seems now that the Patriotic Front at last feels it will do very well in legitimate elections, while the other side are resigned to the fact that to frustrate them would be finally fatal.

The Governor may be helped by other influences. Zambia is getting its maize, Mozambique its respite. Sanctions are off; the prospects of investment offer an inducement to stability to all except markets. For the white, and perhaps for many anti-Patriotic Front blacks, there may be a calming sense of security in a sojourn under the British flag, for they may feel that it shields them to protection and asylum if things go ill for them.

Lord Soames's greatest prize will be to hand over a Zimbabwe in which all ex-enemies can live together. That is a far-off goal. Immediately Britain has proved as good as its word given in Lusaka; therefore fourteen years of being put in the dock by African extremists and of providing propaganda willy-nilly to the Communist hegemony is over. For this, warm tributes are due to Mrs Thatcher and Lord Carrington.

## Conserving energy

From Mr M. M. Watson  
Sir, Discussion of energy policy continues to exhibit a serious omission, exemplified by a recent *Europe* statement (The Times, December 4) by the EEC Energy Commission. While there is concern for economies of oil, there is little consideration of conservation. Yet by conservation, energy consumption can be restrained without diminishing economic growth.

The fallacy is to believe that energy consumption must keep pace with, or even outstrip, economic growth. Official policy assumes, crudely, that supply has to match unregulated demand, which is tied rigidly to economic growth. Consumption rates are simply extrapolated forward. A conservation policy focuses on controlling demand, rather than supply, through the efficient use of energy.

Efficient energy use calls for a massive programme of insulation and waste recuperation (both very beneficial for employment), but also calls for the matching of energy sources to their appropriate uses. A major example here is the elimination of electricity for heating, for which it is inefficient.

A recent study, *Energy Future*, by the Harvard Business School team, should be required reading for policy makers. It opts decisively for conservation (plus small solar technologies) as the most sensible strategy. Financially, economically and politically, as growth of energy demand has already slackened more than economic growth, only an irrational inflation with nuclear power—policy—the Thatcher syndrome—can lead to priority for stepping up supply rather than pursuit of overall energy efficiency to restrain demand.

Yours faithfully,  
M. M. WATSON,  
Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences,  
University of Wales,  
Aberystwyth.

From Dr R. Hawley  
Sir, In tropical countries, many of the hotels are air conditioned to provide cool eating and sleeping quarters. In the tropics, the British hotels are overbuilt to the point of discomfort, when all that is needed is to simply alter a thermostat to save both hotel running costs and precious energy and at the same time improve guests' health?

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT HAWLEY,  
Managing Director,  
NEI Parsons Ltd,  
Heaton Works,  
Newcastle upon Tyne.

From Miss Mary Goldsack  
Sir, Hot and bothered NBS (Admin) worker.

At work, I wear my summer clothes in winter. At home, I wear my winter clothes in summer.

Yours faithfully,  
MARY GOLDSACK,  
Fryernay Farm,  
Bromley,  
Dorset.

## Grants for legal training

From the Chairman of the Bar and the President of the Law Society  
Sir, We wish to suppose, strongly, on behalf of the Bar, that the legal profession, the plea made in these columns on Monday (December 10) by Mr Oliver and Professor Smith for the extension of local authority grants to all students who need them for their legal vocational training.

Those able students who themselves or whose parents have not the means to finance this training should not be excluded from entry to the profession. That most needy intending students do presently receive discretionary grants simply makes the plight of the minority who do not more unjust. The Royal Commission on Legal Services strongly recommended mandatory grants should be available.

The present Education Bill follows in general pattern one presented by Mrs Shirley Williams, but not enacted, in 1978. The earlier Bill contained a clause enabling the Ministry of Education to provide for mandatory grants in five categories of cases. Vocational training leading to professional qualifications was the fifth. For some reason this fifth category has been cut out of the present Bill. It does not immediately disburse money but only gives powers to the Minister to do so if he thinks fit. It is hard to see why it should be deleted.

During the debate on the Bill, Mr. B. J. B. Crispie strongly urged the inclusion of vocational training in this clause and we earnestly urge him to restore it to his present Bill.

Of course, we should not make too much of this. It does not make discretionary grants will come into line with the majority which do.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER TAYLOR,  
Chairman of the Bar,  
J. C. STEVENS,  
President of the Law Society,  
The Senate of the Inns of Court and the Bar,  
11 South Square,  
Gray's Inn, WC1.

## The PLO and Palestine

From Mr Patrick Cosgrave  
Sir, In his article today (December 8) Mr Edward Mortimer quotes Mr Khalid al-Hassan as exemplifying and stating the supposed policy of the PLO to create a secular and democratic state in Palestine by "peaceful and democratic" means. This is the same emphasis he gave to his earlier report in your columns on the Jerusalem seminar which Mr al-Hassan addressed.

Further, Mr Mortimer takes pains in this morning's article to warn the Western powers of the danger of failing to encourage such secular trends in Arab politics as are represented by Mr al-Hassan less they may thereby unwittingly lend strength to "an opposition far more fanatical and implacable" in the shape of a resurgent Islam.

On February 11 last Mr Yasser Arafat wrote to the *Ayatollah* Khomeini and said: "I pray Allah to guide your steps on the road of faith and jihad [holy war] in Iran, which will continue the struggle until we reach the walls of Jerusalem, where we will raise the flag of our revolution." As the leader of the PLO, Mr Arafat may be presumed accurately to represent its policies; and his are hardly the words of a secular democrat.

But then, I am more surprised to find Mr Mortimer supporting secularism than I would be to find him supporting Mr Arafat and the *Ayatollah*. His enthusiasm—indeed, one might almost say fanaticism—for the *Ayatollah* and his revolution is well known to those who have read his outpourings in *The Spectator* on this subject.

Yours faithfully,  
PATRICK COSGRAVE,  
118 Kyrle Road, SW11  
December 8.

## Put out by a cab driver

From Mr D. M. Muriison  
Sir, There must be no other major city in the world where a taxi driver would put a young girl out of his cab in a deserted street at midnight. This is what one of your London cabbies did to my 15-year-old daughter last night at the Angel, several blocks from her home, because she was not clear how to direct him to her street. She had been in England one week; the cabbie, one presumes, lives here.

Of course, she should have taken his number, refused to pay or refused to get out. However, she walked home through streets that no one here goes alone in at night. My host had assured me that London cabbies are the best in the world. I am assured that they are the most irresponsible.

Yours faithfully,  
D. M. MURISON,  
31 Allington Street, N1.

## Revenue powers of search and entry

From Mr Peter Horden, MP for Farnham and Cranley (Conservative)  
Sir, The decision by the Law Lords to overturn the judgment of the Court of Appeal with regard to the Inland Revenue's rights of search and entry, raises serious issues. Lord Wilberforce, in the course of giving judgment for the Revenue, said that the defendants "had not been told what the precise nature of the fraud was, when it had been committed, or by whom it had been committed, in the case of a bank, rights and liberties of the subject? The occupier of the premises was totally unable to protect his customers' confidential information from investigation and seizure." His Lordship could not believe that that did not call for a fresh look by Parliament.

I do not doubt that the Revenue has an exceedingly difficult task in carrying out its duty to the public. But Parliament has an even more important task to see, in the words of Lord Denning, that its laws "encroach as little as possible upon the liberties of England."

In view of the quite unsatisfactory Parliamentary history of this law, should not a Royal Commission be appointed to recommend what should be the powers available to the Revenue properly to carry out its duty, while safeguarding the rights and liberties of the subject?

Yours faithfully,  
PETER HORDEN,  
House of Commons,  
December 14.

From Mr Graham Don  
Sir, Your correspondent Mr New December 15 should realize that his boundless admiration for those heroic guardians of British liberty—the fringe gentlemen who labour so manfully helping the rich to fiddle their income tax returns—is not universally shared.

Nor is his case helped by wide-eyed declarations of innocence, "It's perfectly legal, you know." That was Shylock's argument and his reputation has gained nothing by it. Of course it is legal; the tax fiddler who gives his address as Wormwood Scrubs is unlikely to reach the top of his profession.

The line between tax avoidance which is legal and tax evasion which is criminal is inevitably a fine one and the Inland Revenue authorities, acting on behalf of ordinary law-abiding tax payers who actually part with the cash on demand, deserve our unstinted support.

The cry of liberty ought not to be invoked when it means the liberty of always leaving the other fellow to pay the bill.

Yours faithfully,  
GRAHAM DON,  
14 Colina Close,  
Bletchley,  
Buckinghamshire,  
December 15.

## Charter 77 appeals

From Professor Frantisek Janouch  
Sir, On December 20 the Supreme Court of the Czech Socialist Republic will hear the appeal in the case of Mr Petr Uhl and five other Charter 77 signatories and active members of the Committee for the Defence of the Unjustly Persecuted (VONS) who had previously been sentenced to terms of imprisonment of up to five years.

One of the fundamental principles of the Czechoslovak judicial system is that proceedings take place in public (Article 103 of the Czechoslovak Constitution). VONS activities consist of collecting and publicising information about police persecution and verdicts which, in the committee's view, infringe Czechoslovak laws or are unjust. According to the Czechoslovak Criminal Code, such activities cannot be the basis of any criminal offence.

Moreover, the activities of the accused were in full accord with the right to petition guaranteed by Article 29 of the Czechoslovak Constitution. This provision gives the right to individual citizens, groups of citizens or citizens' committees to petition the authorities. Nothing in Czechoslovak legislation prevents petitions from being made public.

The Prague trial also dealt with and condemned the financial assistance provided by Charter 77 signatories to the Czechoslovak political and police persecution by solidarity committees abroad.

The Charter 77 Foundation was established on the basis of the

Swedish Cultural Monismian Prize, awarded to Charter 77 in December, 1978. The foundation provides financial help on humanitarian principles to dozens of families. Cultural, religious, trade union, socialist and other democratic organizations and individuals in Europe made donations to the foundation. The aid is provided impartially, regardless of the alleged criminal, political, religious or cultural activities of the convicted persons.

Our only aim, and this clearly applies also to all other solidarity committees, is to alleviate the plight of hundreds of people who are jailed, dismissed from work or otherwise persecuted for their opinions.

People in the West often do not realize that in Czechoslovakia persons not employed as a result of their political views do not receive any unemployment benefit, either from the state or from the trade unions, and that families of people serving sentences have no income whatsoever, not even children's allowance.

Since the financial help provided by the Charter 77 Foundation is remitted invariably legally, through such remittances being approved by the Czechoslovak authorities, this strictly humanitarian action in no way infringes Czechoslovak laws.

Yours truly,  
FRANTISEK JANOUCH,  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees,  
Charter 77 Foundation,  
Bergsgatan 62/11,  
S-183 64 Taby,  
Sweden,  
December 17.

## Advice on social services

From Professor R. A. Pinder and others  
Sir, We are writing to you as teachers and researchers in the field of social policy to express our deep concern and dismay at the recent decision of the Secretary of State for Social Services to close the Personal Social Services Council (PSSC). The Council was set up in 1973, by a Conservative administration, to advise Ministers on the policy issues affecting the whole range of personal social services, and to keep under review the interests of the users of these services, many of whom are children at risk, elderly and handicapped people and other disadvantaged groups.

The work of the Council is consultation and debate between central and local government and the voluntary sector on matters of general policy affecting a whole spectrum of welfare need. It has already carried out valuable research on aspects of welfare policy concerned with the quality and efficiency of the personal social services.

In default of a body like the PSSC, the future ordering of welfare priorities is more likely to be carried out on a piecemeal basis, leading to replication and waste of resources. In times of economic stringency it becomes all the more vital that decision making about priorities at every level is informed by up-to-date research findings.

The research interests and activities of the Council currently include fire risks in residential homes, the

rehabilitation of the blind and partially sighted, handicapped school-leavers and community care of the old.

Research is only one aspect of the work of the PSSC. It has undertaken wide-ranging consultations with groups representing the elderly, the mentally ill, the physically handicapped, children in care and families of serving soldiers.

The transfer of certain Council functions to other bodies will not remedy the damage done if it is closed. The users of personal social services include many of our society's vulnerable members of our society. Their needs are complex and varied. The loss of the only independent advisory Council which represents their interests and monitors the services which they receive is bound to jeopardize the considerable advances which have been made.

The short-term savings in expenditure will be minimal; the Council's budget for next year has been set at £214,000. The longer-term costs of closure could be far greater.

We urge the Minister to think again.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT PINDER, B. ABEL-SMITH (London School of Economics), A. COLLIS (Birmingham), B. DAVIES (Kent), M. DAVIES (East Anglia), V. GEORGE (Kent), F. PARKER (Glasgow), G. PLOWMAN (LSE), J. H. SMITH (Southampton), A. WEBB (Loughborough), A. I. WILLCOCKS (Nottingham),  
London School of Economics,  
Rougham Street, WC2,  
December 12.

## Taking action against Iran

From Lord Lever of Manchester  
Sir, Your leading article on Monday is wrong in implying that I argued in *The Sunday Times* that Britain should unilaterally freeze all Iranian assets in this country or that failure to do so would mean giving Iran freedom to default with impunity on its liabilities. My article was focused, not upon the question of hostages, but specifically on the dangers to the world monetary system and to world trade and rights and liberties which arose from the Iranian threat to remove their balances, convert them to the injury of the dollar and default at will upon their debts.

I argued that the Americans had little choice but to act as they did and that we should not undermine their action by placing British courts in the position where they have to order American banks to hand over dollars which their own law forbids them to pay.

I argued, too, that the US action was no breach of banking or commercial intercity in view of the threat directed at them but was required for the protection of their banking system, its depositors and customers.

I urged unambiguous political support for an American action which was also protective of the international monetary system, whose fragility was well documented in the perceptive article by your Financial Editor in today's *Times* and for cooperative international action in support of the cause of international law and order in this area.

You say: "We simply cannot afford to let the rest of the world think that the money deposited with us is at the mercy of political decisions by the British Government." But can the leading powers afford to be passive or divided in the face of the political decisions of Iran which threaten the security of the banking system, depositors' money and parity stability? The more general implications of such an attitude must be obvious.

The Iranian Finance Minister, Mr Bani-Sadr, has threatened to make us pay very dearly if we interfere in an Iranian conflict with the US. He takes the view that we are an anti-Iranian stance. I feel that rather than justifying its title "New York to support America", your leading article may be taken as reinforcing Mr Bani-Sadr's threat.

Yours faithfully,  
HAROLD LEVER,  
House of Lords,  
December 18.

## London's third airport

From Mr R. A. Vallance  
Sir, Standed was the quickest in an area of the cheaper sites to develop, but are these alone reasons for imposing a major airport there? After all, there are no other good reasons.

Standed is in an area of prime agricultural land, with no provision for real population growth. Urbanization there would be totally at odds with planning considerations. Too many people live near by and would suffer excessively from a major increase in the airport's use. There is no unemployment problem. It is in an area of rolling, largely unspoiled, countryside.

These factors were paramount when the last two inquiries rejected Standed. There is no reason to doubt that a new inquiry will reach the same conclusion.

If cost and expense are such overriding considerations, the Government can save both if only it will accept that, because there has been no change in the area, a third inquiry can only reject Standed yet again.

Yours faithfully,  
R. A. VALLANCE,  
Langley/Nuthampstead Preservation Association,  
The Old Bell,  
Langley Upper Green,  
Langley,  
Buckinghamshire,  
Essex,  
December 18.

## Smoking in public

From Mr Peter Kelly  
Sir, In his efforts to understand why people were not attracted to socialism as he thought they should be, George Orwell remarked that socialism draws towards itself "every fruit-juice drinker, nudist, sandal-wearer, sex-maniac, Quaker, nature-cure quack, pacifist and feminist in England".

Surely this is the point that Mr Levin is making with regard to the anti-smoking movement. What began as a sound medical argument based on sound data, has become the preserve of fire-breathing moralists who see themselves as waging a war against "big business", which is intrinsically evil rather than something which is bad for one's health.

And this is tragic because in time the anti-smokers will make themselves look so ridiculous that they will be laughed out of every smoking compartment in the land.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER KELLY,  
65 Jud Road,  
Tombridge,  
Kent,  
December 13.

## Taking cycles by rail

From Dr Peter H. Ellaway  
Sir, As the increasing number of cyclists on the roads testifies to an effort to limit pollution, save fuel and keep fit, surely British Rail should be thinking of adding an extra van to transport bicycles rather than refusing to take them?

Yours faithfully,  
PETER ELLAWAY,  
10 Basing Close,  
Thames Ditton,  
Surrey.

## Wolfgang Amadeus Lossey

From Miss P. M. Johnston  
Sir, If God chose Mozart, may we presume that perhaps He chose also Lossey?

Yours truly,  
PATRICIA M. JOHNSTON,  
3 Cophall Avenue, EC3.

## Without fear or favour

From Mr D. C. Damant  
The fact that professional skills are dangerously diminished by acts of punishment in the event of failure was recognized by the fact that the doctor, advising the doctor, advised the Emperor at the birth of a child that he should imagine self delivering a girl in the streets of Paris.

Yours faithfully,  
D. DAMANT,  
Orchard Street,  
Widridge.

## Limiting freedom

From Mr W. H. Edwards  
In man's effort to define freedom, does he not limit it, and, in so doing, does he not destroy it?

Yours faithfully,  
W. H. EDWARDS,  
Orchard House,  
Lydney, Gloucestershire.

## Insisted places scheme

From the Headmaster of Abingdon School  
Sir Desmond Lee (December 10) refers in his letter on the insisted places scheme to a resolution passed by the Headmasters' Conference in September of this year, and suggests that it demonstrates the unanimity of independent schools in favour of the scheme. The full wording of that resolution, however, makes it clear that the Conference was voting in favour of the general principle that assistance should be made available to pupils with special educational needs, on a basis that could be complementary to the state's own provision.

The general support given to this

motion did not adequately mirror the quality of the actual proposal, proposed places scheme, and it would be wise to have the heads of independent schools continue to entertain serious reservations about the desirability and practicality of that scheme at the present time.

Yours faithfully,  
M. ST JOHN PARKER, Headmaster,  
Abingdon School,  
Oxfordshire.

From Mr E. D. Roberts  
Sir, It is to be hoped that your readers will not be misled by a statement in Sir Desmond Lee's letter (The Times, December 10) into thinking that "the scheme applies only to day pupils"; it can apply to boarders as well.

The scheme applies to tuition fees and we have been informed officially that "participation agreements" of schooling with boarding places might provide for the offer of a limited number of assisted places to pupils whose boarding fees was met from other sources, such as the school's own bursary fund.

Another source of assistance with the boarding fee is a grant from a local education authority.

If the scheme has had a poor reception this may be due in part to a failure to take account simultaneously towards existing children who need the boarding places to receive it. Some of these children may merit assisted places but there are others whose needs are no less important and for whom the help available from charitable funds and increasingly from school bursary funds is unlikely to be sufficient.

Yours faithfully,  
E. D. ROBERTS,  
Secretary,  
Board of Management for Methodist Residential Schools,  
25 Marylebone Road, NW1.















BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## The CSI's report

Incidentally, the Council for the Securities Industry published its views on Department of Trade company investigations on the 17th day that the present Government derided its first inquiry—into Sir Pirbright's events—what has been a squalid issue ever since Mr Robert axwell kicked against the system eight years ago and suggested that the department's report into Pergamon Press was fair.

All along the central criticism has been at such inquiries smack of Star Chamber justice; that inspectors appointed by the department have too often adopted an inquisitorial attitude towards those who appear before the inquiry, and that investigations take far too long, which more often in not means that by the time the report appears the whole inquiry has lost its point of unnecessary damage has been caused to a company or innocent individuals.

The CSI recognises both these points and makes some forcible recommendations for bringing the inquisitorial and literary powers of inspectors should be provided with a guide on the procedure to be followed by inspectors; they should be told in advance in some detail about the matters in documents on which they will be asked to give evidence and the nature of any criticism which will appear in a report with the aim to offer comment.

Most importantly, the CSI says that inspectors should confine themselves to the facts (that presumably means no more than the "horse" remarks such as appeared in the Ralph Hilton report) and avoid character studies of witnesses, animadversions on their conduct.

On the question of speeding up the procedure, the CSI is less helpful, though finds the time normally taken in conducting such inquiries, publishing a report and in carrying out any necessary prosecutions, quite unacceptable.

Anecdotal support is the case of the City Glasgow Bank which closed its doors on October 1, 1978, with losses concealed by entries of £71m. An immediate investigation followed and a report produced on October 18.

The outcome was that by February the following year the directors and the manager of the bank were in prison. "We fly need to get back to a similar sense of urgency in the handling of current cases," says the CSI.

Life has become a good deal more complicated since 1878—but CSI has a point of view on which the Department of Trade, which earlier this month said it was reviewing the procedure for conducting its company inquiries, will no doubt consider. It no-one wants to see any corners cut in its area.

### northern Foods year of consolidation

Northern Foods spent the year digesting its acquisitions, preparing its way into the American home producing business with its 2m bid for Bluebird—the subject of today's EGM—and met market expectations by improving pre-tax profits by 14 per cent in a difficult trading period.

Turnover for the year to September 30, 1979 rose 20 per cent to £533m in spite of generally lower demand in the food industry. Pre-tax profits were ahead by only 14 per cent to £25.5m, reflecting the firm's downward on the group's short-term investment ratings.

Trading profits, however, managed a 23 per cent increase thanks to substantially higher depreciation charges following a property revaluation. Pork Farms, making its first full year contribution, undoubtedly proved the out-turn with a 140 per cent increase to £4m against last year's £1.6m. Milk and dairy products, formerly the mainstay of the group's business but now reduced to provide only a third of profits by 81, also did better. And unconsolidated operations over January's proposed milk increase, which will further reduce net income, are making the group cautious on next year's outlook.

Nevertheless the Bluebird acquisition, avoided the legal wrangle as it is, is bringing in £5m profit in its nine months, making it a likely overall total of £34m for the current year, provided of course as the group makes the profit it hopes on its £13m foray into the gilt market.

The 20 per cent increase in the total dividend to 6.43p a share gross takes the dividend to 5.9 per cent on yesterday's price of 9p and the shares sell on 8.3 times earnings.

ings, ratings that underline how far Northern Foods' growth halo has slipped for the time being.

### MEPC Development potential

Having come through the property traumas of the mid-1970s, MEPC results for the year to the end of September have only been blotted by a problem development in Hawaii where construction defects have forced it to make a film provision.

Even with this setback pre-tax profits rose from £10.3m to £14.1m, thanks mainly to rent reversions, while the 25 per cent dividend increased to 7.14p a share gross has marginally exceeded the forecast at the time of the £36m rights issue, and the 4.1 per cent yield is now slightly above par for good quality property shares.

The office block developments in Brussels and Sydney, which have been difficult to let, are no longer the drain they were and the Munich site, which used to cost around £3m a year to hold, has been sold, severing the last links with the turbulence of the past.

However, MEPC's chief attraction is the high proportion of development property on its books.

Provided MEPC can pre-let its Guildford and West One, central London developments—and later its Long Acre site in Covent Garden—this should ensure a comfortable future rise in profits.

On the back of an asset revaluation, which shows a £133m surplus over the net book value, borrowings now amount to only two thirds of shareholder's funds. Fully diluted net asset value of 264p a share represents a 34 per cent discount on the 175p share price, roughly the same as for the property bellwether Land Securities. But MEPC's figures show that profits growth rather than asset values could start to be the more important yardstick for property shares.

Meanwhile, with its development programme fully funded, cash and short-term deposits of £51m and a proposal to increase its share capital before shareholders, MEPC looks ready to pick up a small property company or specialist retailer. With lean times ahead for those that are highly geared MEPC could acquire some bargain properties.



● The sale by Blue Circle, whose chairman is Sir Kenneth Owen (above), of its 10.2 per cent holding in the Canadian Genstar building materials group to Societe Generale de Belgique for £27m has all the appearance of a quasi-rights issue for a company that is spending heavily—almost £60m—at home and overseas against a background of probably no more than static profits in the current year.

No doubt the timing has been dominated more by the buoyancy of the Canadian stock market where Genstar's shares are trading only Can\$11 over the \$25 price Blue Circle has obtained and a high this year of \$27.1, giving it a useful book profit of £22.2m in the seven years it has had the investment.

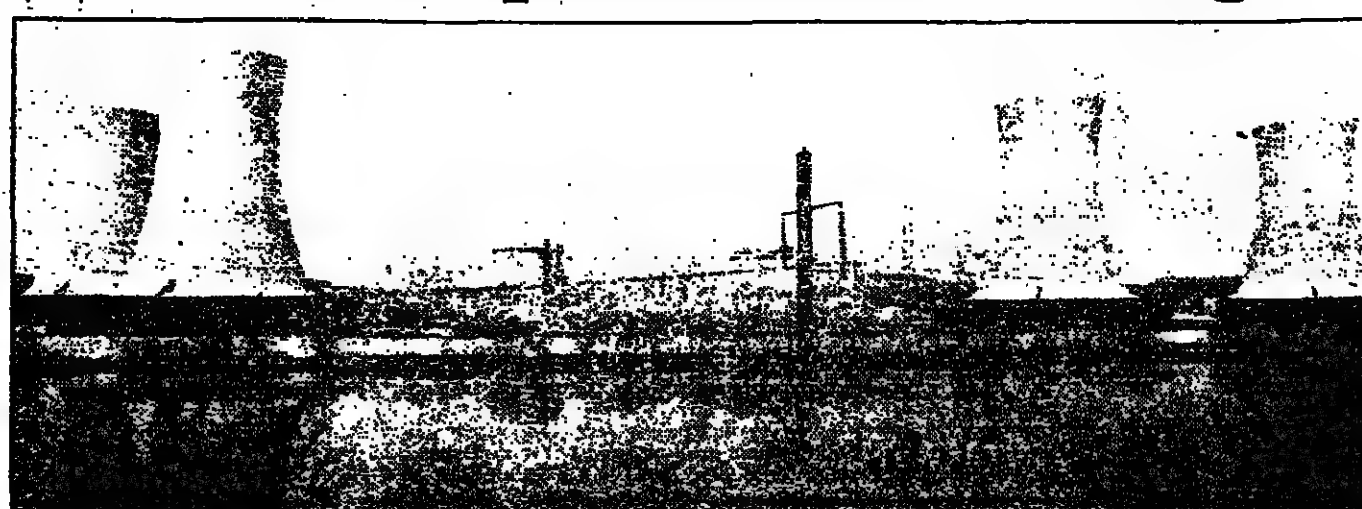
At the same time, however, Genstar is only a trade investment and last year's dividend income of \$3.1m looks nowhere near as exciting on the profit and loss account as the consolidation of associate company profits—the preferred route for its overseas expansion—which now make up almost half the group's total.

Increasingly the group's strategy is to concentrate on cement production in developing countries, and move as far away from its home base as the French Lafarge concern has done already.

Recently Blue Circle announced it was spending £23m on the purchase of Chile's largest cement concern and it is thought to be eyeing the growing economies of the Far East as platforms to keep it the world's biggest cement producer.

## The reactor debate entered a new phase yesterday. Kenneth Owen reports

# Another cautious step into the nuclear age



Three Mile Island: the accident there has overshadowed the pressurized water reactor debate.

In his nuclear programme announcement yesterday, Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, gave a few pointers to the choice of Britain's next nuclear reactor and the shape of the nuclear industry, but left many questions unanswered.

For the industry, he confirmed that the structure of the National Nuclear Corporation is to be streamlined; GEC's contract-management role is to be dropped; and the present shareholdings in the corporation are to remain as they are. He is not yet ready to say who will succeed Lord Aldington as NNC chairman.

Yesterday's announcement follows extensive talks between Mr Howell and senior officials and industry leaders on the future structure of the NNC. The Government's aim is to forge a stronger nuclear corporation, simplifying the present rather complex and conceivably adding a manufacturing role later.

In this it has not been helped by the fact that the industry, based partly on commitments to competing technical solutions and partly on personal antagonisms, Mr Howell has been unable to bring the GEC management role in an attempt to gain the best from all parts of the industry, and he intends to strengthen the NNC board.

He hopes that all sides will have had enough of the civil war they have been waging over many years and will be ready to pull together. This hope may be premature to the continuing fighting lobby.

Certainly the NNC chairmanship is a sensitive issue. The name of Sir John King of Babcock International has been mentioned for this post, but

the Department of Energy maintains that no decision has been made. Mr Howell is presumably looking for someone with a knowledge of the nuclear industry—but probably not from one of the main contracting suppliers.

In the reshaped NNC a first task will be to establish a strong, credible management; Mr Howell does not propose to change the shareholding pattern. GEC holds 30 per cent, the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority 35 per cent, and British Nuclear Associates (BNA) 35 per cent. The members of BNA are Babcock International (12 per cent); Clarke Chapman (part of Northern Engineering Industries, 10 per cent); Taylor Woodrow (10 per cent); Sir Robert McAlpine (2.5 per cent); Head Wrightson (3 per cent); Whessoe (2 per cent); and DRG(UK) (0.5 per cent). The task ahead of the re-

shared industry, as announced by the Government yesterday, is a 10-year, 15,000-megawatt programme of nuclear power station construction. Only the type or mixture of types of reactor is missing. The two possibilities are the British designed advanced gas-cooled reactor (AGR) and the American-designed pressurized water reactor (PWR).

Preliminary design and safety work on a PWR (together with construction of two further AGRs) was authorized by Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn, then Secretary of State for Energy, in 1976. Yesterday Mr Howell took this one stage further—the NNC and the Central Electricity Generating Board are to activate "the previously dormant licence agreement with Westinghouse and prepare a final PWR design for safety approval."

Overshadowing all PWR prospects since March 28 has been

the accident, on that date, at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant, Pennsylvania. Yesterday the view of the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate of the Health and Safety Executive was that the accident did not arise from any serious inherent weakness in the concept or design of the pressurized water reactor.

The CEBG concur: the accident, they say, "had not revealed any fundamental weakness in the PWR concept or its basic engineering"; it had resulted from "weaknesses in detail design, safety analysis, performance of some components and above all operator behaviour."

Subject to safety clearance and public inquiry, the Government hopes that construction of Britain's first PWR will begin in 1982 and that it might take about seven years to complete. The parliamentary select

committee on energy, also, will almost certainly wish to examine the prospects for the PWR.

But the basic uncertainty remains—will the 10-year programme be based on the AGR, on the PWR or on a combination of the two? This is the crucial question. The Government is deliberately moving slowly, one step at a time, in approaching a nuclear programme that will, if it continues, outlast several governments.

For the time being the industry will have to wait some time longer before it can get into its stride again. So far its record includes a successful first-generation (Magnox) programme; lateness, expense and technical problems in the second-generation (AGR) programme; abortive work on the steam-generating heavy water reactor and continued interest but little action on the PWR.

## A transatlantic tremor through Lloyd's

PRINCIPAL UK QUOTED INSURANCE BROKING GROUPS

Links with American firms

C. T. Bouring: "Pooling" plan with Marsh now aborted; full takeover in the offing. Previous close links with Alexander & Alexander and Frank B. Hall.

Stewart Wrightson: Has third stake in Market Services Inc; receives American business from R. B. Jones and Corroon and Black.

Sedgwick Forbes Bland: Discussing pooling arrangements with Alexander & Alexander; Bland previously 20 per cent owned by Marsh.

Stenhouse: Has joint North American company with Canadian group Reed Shaw Osler. Continental Corporation recently took 20 per cent stake in Stenhouse.

Willis Faber: Involved in joint ventures with Johnson and Higgins, including company to operate in NY insurance exchange; also receives reinsurance business from Marsh subsidiary Guy Carpenter.

Leslie and Godwin: Taken over by Frank B. Hall; 75 per cent of Lloyd's broking interests sold on to Rothschild Investment Trust to satisfy Lloyd's rules on foreign control.

\* No longer quoted.

Marsh & McLennan's chairman, Mr John Regan, said at the time of the pooling announcement that these other links would not be affected.

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The most dramatic consequence was the merger of Sedgwick Forbes and Bland Payne to form the United Kingdom's biggest group, with a market capitalization of more than £200m, and their plans to share business with Alexander & Alexander. This merger, apparently angered Marsh, which has subsequently taken much of its business away from Sedgwick and placed it through Bouring.

The Marsh Bouring breakdown and subsequent talk of a takeover bid have hardly cleared the air and, as long as Lloyd's sticks to its rule on overseas control, the uncertainty will continue to beset the industry.

In the longer term Lloyd's itself is under some threat unless it can come up with a compromise to satisfy the Americans' aspirations. Plans for a rival "Lloyd's" in America have still not proved fully workable, but if the Americans can make a success of their own insurance exchange the pressure will be on Lloyd's to open its doors wider—or see business switched away.

Marsh has said that, if successful in a Bouring bid, it will accede to Lloyd's wishes on foreign control. On the longer view, however, the Americans must be more far-reaching.

Richard Allen

at other ways to breach the walls of the Lloyd's fortress and the idea of premium pooling was born.

Until then the American groups tended to use several different British firms to ferry business to Lloyd's and the London market, on a non-exclusive basis, although building up particularly close relationships with one or two firms.

Marsh, easily the biggest purveyor of United States business to Lloyd's—possibly accounting indirectly for as much as a quarter of the market's premiums—while building up a close link with Bouring, channelled much of its business through other groups like Sedgwick, Alexander, Howden and Stewart Wrightson.

In 1977 the big American group Frank B. Hall, decided to test Lloyd's again with a bid for the British firm Leslie & Godwin. This was also blocked, but, undeterred, Hall came up with a complicated scheme to acquire Leslie & Godwin and divest itself of 75 per cent of the Lloyd's interest.

Although slightly above the one fifth limit set by Lloyd's this scheme met with its approval. Meanwhile, groups like Marsh were beginning to look

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## Business Diary: NatWest's new guard • A boost for conservation?

The old guard at National Westminster Bank is changing rapidly. The appointment of Sir John Wilkinson as deputy chief executive of domestic business in place of Tom McMillan, comes only a few months after it was announced that Eric Carter could take over from Harold Itchcock in the parallel job in charge of the international side.

The word in Lloyds is that Wilkinson is being groomed for the chief executive's job when Eric Benson goes. Benson, however, is only 57 and having taken over the job from Alex Gibbs a couple of years ago, clearly has some time to go, but at 52 Wilkinson has time in his side. He also has the sort of well-rounded experience that would fit him out to run the bank. Starting off in the bank's staff department 36 years ago, Wilkinson has had lengthy spells in branch banking both in the City and provinces. After managing the important Threadneedle Street branch he got his schooling in the international sphere when he was seconded to Orion, which has subsequently become one of the most successful commercial banks and spawned a number of top bankers. Most recently Wilkinson has been in charge of the related banking services side of NatWest which includes the finance house subsidiary as well as Country Bank, the merchant banking arm.



You can now call accountant John Black (above) a bit of a card with impunity from this week on. Black is the new Master of the Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards, which has been around since 1628. He and his guests at this week's revels at the Mansion House each receive a souvenir pack of cards whose ace portrays the incoming master. The reverse traditionally shows a historic scene, in this case a polychrome Mrs Thatcher entering Number Ten. But you're probably seen enough pictures of her.

● Bob Boote plans to go out not with a whimper but a bang when he retires from the director-generalship of the Nature Conservancy Council at the end of March.

The beginning of March, however, will see the launching of a national and indeed international conservancy campaign of particular interest to business.

The campaign has one of those appalling titles United Nations agencies so delight in: a national and international conservancy campaign of particular interest to business.

It has been dreamed up by a United Nations agency, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), of which Boote is a vice-president and of which the Nature Conservancy Council—funded by the Government—is the principal British organization. In retirement Boote will continue to lobby through his IUCN vice-presidency.

In essence, the programme Boote will launch here is the United Kingdom end of the world conservancy strategy. There will be all the usual noises about the environment, but more to the point, pressure for the extension to British companies of tax incentives now available in the United States for companies who set up nature reserves or conduct conservation research or fund voluntary conservancy bodies.

Elizabeth Brannell (right) should cause a stir when she is named shortly as the editor of The Law Society's Gazette. Not because she is a woman—in fact, she succeeds another lady, Mary Smith—but because the Gazette is the solicitors' journal and Ms Brannell is a barrister. More to the point, however, she is a director of the legal publishers Sweet & Maxwell and has been editing publications aimed at solicitors just as much as at barristers.

● Is the cavalry coming to the rescue of the West German shareholder at last? Although outsiders sometimes think of West Germany as a paradigm of the capitalist virtues, shareholders actually get a raw deal there.

Not only has the value of German stock market investments dropped by about a tenth in the past decade, but German investors also suffer from the fixed-interest mentality of the companies they help to finance. Accordingly, Siemens has managed to pile up liquid assets of more than 10,000m Deutsche marks while paying an unchanged dividend of DM8 per DM50 share for the past seven years. Among the big chemical companies, which have a reputation of pursuing more flexible dividend policies, Hoechst, for example, cut down the percent-

age of net profit distributed to shareholders to 41 per cent this year from about 57 per cent, 10 years ago.

Now, however, the big institutional investors are threatening to flex their muscles. Wolfgang Reuter, chief executive of the Frankfurt-based trust group Union-Investment-Gesellschaft, has declared war on the conservative financial managers of German big business. He has received valuable backing for at least a man than Wilhelm Christians, one of the two chief executives of the Deutsche Bank.

Christians, whose postbag is full of angry letters from disgruntled shareholders, is now calling on German business to rethink its dividend policy. But his call might have more force were the record of the Deutsche Bank itself exemplary.

● Sports sponsorship is usually of interest only to the sponsors and the sponsored, but I was interested to learn that the British cyclists who get to Moscow will do so with the help of French financing.

Bruno Le Grand, the head of the House of Benedictine, the liqueur invented by the monks of Fécamp, Normandy, is putting up the cash for Olympic trials to be held here in April and May.

Le Grand says that Benedictine is putting up the cash for the trials for the Olympics—just to take part.

His firm has another curious link with Britain. Soldiers of the East Lancashire Regiment were apparently stationed at Fécamp during both world wars and to this day about a third of the liqueur sold in this country is sold in Lancashire.

Waterley Market, an empty hole on the south side of Princes Street, Edinburgh, is to be developed, according to the local council "to bring back the small trader to the city centre". A sensible idea; an Act of Parliament protecting the view restricts buildings on that side of the street to no higher than three feet above pavement level.

Ross Davies

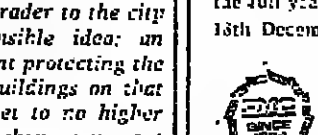
● The recovery reflected in last year's results has been sustained, with the firm's high rate of interest now making some real improvements in trading and management performance. These interim results were also adversely affected by a weak market for New Zealand lamb and a severe decline in hide values. Continuing losses at the Bolton abattoir have now been arrested and negotiations over the sale of the by-product plant at Sike Bar, Northampton, are at an advanced stage.

All the remaining established businesses within the Group are now trading profitably with the exception of the processed food factory at Calne, where rationalisation with the successful business at Litchfield has yet to be completed. The substantial effort on the marketing of Harris Crown Brand bacon has enabled all our bacon factories to trade profitably against imported bacon.

The recovery in the profits of the bacon factories, by being achieved during the plying out of the temporary employment subsidy, it has been helped by the Government's action to reduce the subsidies enjoyed by our European competitors.

In accordance with our usual practice a decision on a dividend on the ordinary shares will be deferred until the results for the full year are available.

18th December, 1979.



Europe's biggest meat group.

## FMC LIMITED AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES

Group Unaudited Results  
For the 24 weeks ended 13 October, 1979

24 weeks ended 13th Oct. 1979	24 weeks ended 13th Oct. 1978	24 weeks ended 13th Oct. 1977
£'000	£'000	£'000
452,511 Sales to Third Parties	215,220	201,650
78,598 Add: Sales within the group	33,584	36,924
531,098 Total Turnover	251,804	238,574
3,083 Group Trading Profit	1,884	1,612
2,383 Less: Interest on bank overdrafts and loans	1,160	985
2,498 Group Profit before associated companies	674	627
15 Share of associated companies' (losses) less profits	(441)	(181)
2,513 Group Profit before Taxation	630	608
602 Taxation	300	300
1,911 Group Profit after Taxation	330	308
183 Extraordinary items	370	309
1,728 Group Profit after Extraordinary Items	330	308
212 Preference dividends	106	106
1,516 Earnings for Ordinary Shares	224	202

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## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Business appointments  
Changes at  
Royal Dutch Shell  
Group

Mr P. B. Baxendale has resigned as director and chairman of the Royal Dutch Shell Group. Mr J. M. J. van der Stoep has been appointed chairman of the board of Royal Dutch Shell Group. Mr J. M. J. van der Stoep has been appointed chairman of the board of Royal Dutch Shell Group. Mr J. M. J. van der Stoep has been appointed chairman of the board of Royal Dutch Shell Group.

## Wall Street

New York, Dec. 18.—Stocks fell as the New York Stock Exchange index lost 0.55 to 62.06 and the average price per share 28 cents. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 3.57 to 338.62.

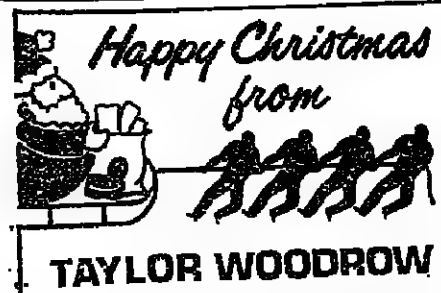
Debt issues advanced 1,051 to 450 as a 10-year Treasury note sold at 103.50, down from 103.50 yesterday.

## Gold soars again

Chicago, Dec. 18.—Gold futures advanced 17.50 to 177.50 per ounce as the price of gold rose to a new high of \$1,775.50 an ounce. The price of gold rose to a new high of \$1,775.50 an ounce.

	Dec 18	Dec 17	Dec 16	Dec 15	Dec 14	Dec 13
United Chem	100	100	100	100	100	100
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## Stock Exchange Prices Utilities drift lower

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 10. Dealings End, Dec 27. \$ Contango Day, Dec 28. Settlement Day, Dec 29.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

**BELL'S**  
SCOTCH WHISKY  
**BELL'S**

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Court of Appeal

of employment at the time  
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JUSTICE GOFF said that the time of transfer "must be the moment when the person of transferring the business from one owner to another was affected, or such period as was necessary to bring it to be carried out."

The second finding of the Employment Appeal Tribunal was that the decision of the present tribunal in favour of the employee, which the appeal must be dismissed.

JUSTICE EVELEIGH said that a preferable interpretation of the words of paragraph 10 is that they referred to the time of employment of an individual in the trade . . . which terminated in him at the time of

tion in the termination of employment and the commencement of the new employment is not required and had not been contemplated by the parties. The gap was very likely, and of more than a week's duration, an essential element to an employee's claim. It would have been stated, in fact, that was the words of the majority of the court. It might have been stated, to select a point in time when a business was transferred, and His Lordship adopted Justice Stephenson's approach. His Lordship understood that his Lordship did not find favour with Justice Goff, but it was unnecessary to express a decision to that effect. The Lordship should be dismissed.

Cohen Jackson

Simon, Stockton-on-Tees;  
Lurie & Co, Newcastle  
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ORDSHIP said that it was that the collapsible container known as "flat", fell within the claims of Ruffs' letters patent, and

inevitably be moved into the United Kingdom the life of the patents.

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## PERSONAL CHOICE



Section of the Early Music Group from New College, Oxford: Fanfare for Young Musicians (ITV, 4.45)

Today's young musicians are not necessarily (if fact rarely) tomorrow's virtuosos and it does not matter all that much if aren't. What does matter is that they enjoy music making and are seen to enjoy it and might even win a £3,000 prize into bargain. That would appear to be the underlying philosophy of the Young Musicians (ITV, 4.45), the inaudible Thames vision contest which reaches its final tonight with the selection of the winning combination. There are four finalists out of the 200 groups of hopefuls who sent in tapes, and we already seen how confidently the 30 who were eventually selected faced the cameras in earlier heats.

is with mixed feelings that I bid farewell to Donald's weekly series Discovering English Churches (C 2, 8.30). They have been painstakingly researched and well photographed and the attempt to fill out dead streets with living people has largely been successful. But I find Mr Sinden is not an ideal guide. His style has unremittently theatrical. Discovering English Theatres—that would be right up his street.

there no end to the fragmentation of Count Dracula (C 1, 11.17)? When shown for the first time, in December it was in one piece. For the repeat, it was split down the middle and the two halves were shown separately. Tonight's attempt is the first of three to be shown on successive nights. I think this is a case of spreading the blood a bit thin, not. There is plenty for everybody. In fact, Philip Saville's is most wholehearted and goriest attempt to film the Stoker that I can remember.

his has not been a good run of Masterminds for the female. Only one woman has got through to the semi-finals, but Beatrice Symms from Dublin, can still make it to the finals if knows a thing or two (or 15) about Jane Austen. Tonight's of nerves and knowledge features the four highest-scoring vers-up from the 13 previous heats. Miss Sym's fellow contestants will be asked questions about the mountains of land, George Borrow and British prime ministers (BBC 1, 1.00 News, 1.20 Thames News).

onight's radio feature Voices from a Promised Land (Radio 1, 1.00) draws its inspiration from the fact that Israelis buy more per head than any other country in Europe. The ramme, presented by Ian Trewin, literary editor of Times, and compiled by Anat Feinberg, examines the richly strands representing the many cultures and races which e up Israel's literary tapestry.

AT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: + STEREO; \* BLACK AND WHITE; REPEAT.

## Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

## TELEVISION

## BBC 1

12.45 pm News and weather.  
1.00 Pebble Mill at One: Pro-gramme presenter Marian Foster goes to the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh to see the young boy and girl sponsored by Pebble Mill at One for the Year of the Child.  
1.45 Over the Moon: Wheels and Wires (r). Close down at 2.00.  
3.25 Pöbel y Cwm: for Welsh viewers.  
3.55 Play School: the story is Christmas Spiders, told by Chloe Ashcroft and Johnny Ball.  
4.30 Pöbel and Dicks: cartoon. High Jinks (r).  
4.25 Jackanory: Spike Milligan reads part 2 of John Andrew's 'Help! I am a Prisoner in a Tooth-paste Factory'.  
4.40 Tom and Jerry: cartoon. The Night Before Christmas (r).  
4.50 John Craven's Newsround: junior newscast.

5.00 Rent-a-Santa: Three ghosts are hired to play Father Christmas in a department store where a pantomime is being produced.  
5.40 News: with Kenneth Kendall.  
5.55 Nationwide.  
6.45 Angels: the question mark still hangs over the future of the hospital's casualty department.  
7.10 Star Trek: Captain Kirk versus the Thing from outer space.  
8.00 Mastermind: Semi-final, featuring the best of the runners, including the only woman still left in the contest (see Personal Choice).  
8.30 Pöbel y Cwm: for Welsh viewers.  
8.35 Pöbel y Cwm: cartoon. High Jinks (r).  
8.45 Jackanory: Spike Milligan reads part 2 of John Andrew's 'Help! I am a Prisoner in a Tooth-paste Factory'.  
8.40 Tom and Jerry: cartoon. The Night Before Christmas (r).  
8.50 John Craven's Newsround: junior newscast.

10.15 Parkinson: His guests tonight include former ITN newscaster Reginald Bosnquet and the singing group Manhattan Transfer.  
11.17 Count Dracula: Part one of Gerald Savory's version of Bram Stoker's classic horror story, with Louis Jordan as the Count and Frank Finlay as Van Helsing. Part two tomorrow night (see Personal Choice).  
12.10 am Weather.

## Regions

BBC 1 VARIATIONS: Wales: 3.25 am Transmitters close down. 5.00 Crystalline. 5.45 Wales Today. 5.55 Newsround. 7.05 News. 7.10 Wales Today. 7.15 News. 7.20 Wales Today. 7.25 News. 7.30 Wales Today. 7.35 News. 7.40 Wales Today. 7.45 News. 7.50 Wales Today. 7.55 News. 8.00 Wales Today. 8.05 News. 8.10 Wales Today. 8.15 News. 8.20 Wales Today. 8.25 News. 8.30 Wales Today. 8.35 News. 8.40 Wales Today. 8.45 News. 8.50 Wales Today. 8.55 News. 9.00 Wales Today. 9.05 News. 9.10 Wales Today. 9.15 News. 9.20 Wales Today. 9.25 News. 9.30 Wales Today. 9.35 News. 9.40 Wales Today. 9.45 News. 9.50 Wales Today. 9.55 News. 10.00 Wales Today. 10.05 News. 10.10 Wales Today. 10.15 News. 10.20 Wales Today. 10.25 News. 10.30 Wales Today. 10.35 News. 10.40 Wales Today. 10.45 News. 10.50 Wales Today. 10.55 News. 11.00 Wales Today. 11.05 News. 11.10 Wales Today. 11.15 News. 11.20 Wales Today. 11.25 News. 11.30 Wales Today. 11.35 News. 11.40 Wales Today. 11.45 News. 11.50 Wales Today. 11.55 News. 12.00 Wales 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